

Statutory proposals for school closures

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

Contact details

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

Hovingham Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, Hovingham, York, North Yorkshire, YO62 4LF from 31 March 2023.

Hovingham 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 March 2023.

Reason for closure

The main factor prompting the request is there are currently no pupils on roll at Hovingham. The School has operated with 40 pupils or below for the last decade. Since the 2017/18 academic year there has been a downward trend of pupil numbers and pupils numbers fell from 33 in May 2020 to 24 in May 2021. This trend accelerated across the 2021/22 academic year with the school having 20 pupils on roll in October, 16 in January and only 7 in May 2022 (all of whom were in key stage 2). Between May 2022 and the start of the new term in September 2022 all remaining pupils departed and no new starters commenced the term in September.

Finance is also a key concern. The pupil numbers for the October 2022 census form the basis of a schools' funding for the 2023/24 financial year. The Department for Education (DfE) have confirmed that where a school has no pupils in the October census they will not allocate any funding for that school in the schools block element of Dedicated School Grant (DSG) funding that a local authority receives to fund schools and academies located within the local authority area.

In the event of the school remaining open, the local authority would need to determine whether the school should continue to be funded through the school funding formula. If this were agreed, the school would receive the formula lump sum funding (2023/24 indicative value £128k) and the school rates funding (£2.5k). Any 2023/24 formula funding allocation for Hovingham CE Primary would need to be funded from the DSG funding allocations provided for other schools and academies within North Yorkshire. If the school closure were to go ahead, the individual school budgets would need to be separated out from the current amalgamated Federation budget. Initial work has

been undertaken on this process; the indicative position as at 31 March 2022 is a cumulative revenue budget deficit of £5.2k for Hovingham CE Primary School. Work is currently being undertaken with the Federation leadership on forecasting the budget position to the end of the current financial year.

In addition, the permanent Headteacher post became vacant on 31 August 2022 and from September 2022 temporary leadership has been in place. This has been provided by the Executive Headteacher of Foston, Terrington and Stillington schools during autumn term 2022, and by the Ryedale Learning Trust from January 2023. These arrangements cover both Hovingham School and St Hilda's CE VC Primary School in Ampleforth. The Federation Governing Body will require clarity over the future of Hovingham School to allow them to make permanent arrangements for future leadership at St Hilda's Ampleforth.

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 0 pupils on roll at the school.

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.

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

There are currently no pupils on roll at Hovingham CE so there will be no immediate requirement to assist parents with seeking alternative places in the event of closure. However, it is important to ensure that there are sufficient school places in the local area. In October 2022 there were 33 pupils living in Hovingham's discrete catchment area and attending a North Yorkshire school, and a further 11 living in the catchment area that Hovingham shares with St Hilda's. These pupils currently attend a total of twelve North Yorkshire schools with the largest numbers attending Slingsby CP, St

Benedict's RC and Helmsley CP.

- 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 communities the school is the only meeting space. Hovingham has a Village Hall with hall, kitchen, toilets and a small meeting room. A hearing loop, PA system, large screen and Wifi are available. The existing school facilities are not currently used by the community.

The Hovingham school buildings and playground are not owned by the County Council. Any decisions about the future of the site and buildings would be a decision for the school's owners.

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.

Hovingham 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 closure of the school on the local community;
- the proportion of pupils attending the school from within the local community i.e. is the school being used by the local community;
- educational standards at the school and the likely effect on standards at neighbouring schools;
- the availability, and likely cost to the LA, of transport to other schools;

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

These are examined in turn below.

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

Please see the section above 'Impact on the Community'

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

As of October 2022 there were 44 Primary aged children who were living in the catchment area of Hovingham School and attending a North Yorkshire School. None of those pupils were on roll at Hovingham but rather attended a total of twelve North Yorkshire schools with the largest numbers attending Slingsby CP, St Benedict's RC and Helmsley CP.

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

If the school closed, there would be a potential additional cost to the Local Authority in providing transport to other schools. Free home to school transport would be provided for entitled pupils within the enlarged catchment areas in accordance with the County Council's Home to School Transport policy. The County Council's Home to School transport policy sets out that free school transport will be provided to the catchment school or nearest school to a child's home address if it is over the statutory walking distances set out by law. This is:

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

If the nearest catchment or nearest school is full, transport will be provided, in accordance with the authority's transport policy, to the nearest school with places available.

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

Whether the school is now surplus to requirements (e.g. because there are surplus places elsewhere in the local area which can accommodate displaced

pupils, and there is no predicted demand for the school in the medium or long term)

The view of the Local Authority is that there are sufficient places in the local area which can accommodate displaced pupils.

There are four other neighbouring primary schools within c.7 miles of Hovingham CE VC Primary School (listed in Appendix 1). Across the area there are places available in all year groups at various schools (Appendix 1).

The nearest school to Hovingham is Slingsby CP which is currently operating over their net capacity of 77. Their facilities offer some ability to operate over net capacity but limits them from having a planned admission number higher than 11.

Although Slingsby has typically been oversubscribed in recent years this is predominantly due to local popularity rather than an 'in area' need for places. In October 2021 there were 94 pupils on roll at Slingsby. However, only 28 of these were pupils living within the Slingsby catchment area. The rest of the breakdown of pupils attending Slingsby School at that time is included as Appendix 1. Significant numbers of pupils currently attend Slingsby from the catchment areas of Nawton CP, Amotherby CP and St Hilda's CE.

At October 2021 there were 48 children of primary school age registered with a GP practice where their home address was recorded as being within Slingsby's catchment area. However, only 39 of these pupils attended state schools in North Yorkshire. A number of pupils locally attend Independent schools. Therefore, the data clearly shows that Slingsby School is a significant 'net importer' of pupils due to popularity and does have sufficient capacity to accommodate children from its own catchment area.

If Hovingham were to close and Slingsby were to experience more 'in area' demand for places from an enlarged catchment area then applicants from that catchment area would receive priority for Reception places at the expense of 'out area' applicants. For example, in Reception during October 2021, five of the 11 pupils were attending from outside the catchment area and going forward with an enlarged catchment area we would expect that proportion could reduce.

There is currently capacity in all year groups at Terrington CE VA Primary School, which is the next nearest school. There are also places available in all year groups at St Hilda's CE Primary School. Both of these schools have adjacent catchment areas to that of Hovingham CE Primary School and a Church of England designation.

It is proposed that from 1 April 2023 the parishes of Gilling East, Grimstone, Cawton and the smaller part of Coulton parish which currently form a part of a shared catchment area between Hovingham CE and St Hilda's CE will remain part of the St Hilda's CE catchment area. The parish of Stonegrave which was part of the discrete catchment area for Hovingham CE would also become part of the St Hilda's CE

catchment area. The parish of Scackleton and the larger part of the parish of Coulton which were part of Hovingham's discrete catchment area will become part of the catchment area for Terrington CE VA Primary School. The parish of Fryton and the larger part of Hovingham Parish which formed part of the Hovingham catchment area will become part of the catchment area for Slingsby Community Primary School.

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.

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

It is not considered that there would be significant additional car use given that at present all the pupils living within the Hovingham catchment area are attending other schools and the vast majority of these will be travelling by car.

Any alternatives to the closure of the school

The Ryedale Learning Trust came forward during the consultation process to offer support to the Governors at St Hilda's and Hovingham Schools. The trust is providing leadership of the schools from January 2023 and have given both schools Associate Membership of their trust. The trust wants to bring both Hovingham and St Hilda's into their Multi Academy Trust and believes it could support both schools to become 'schools of choice' in the area. Their response to the consultation (Appendix 5) sets out the offer they would seek to provide at Hovingham from September 2023. Their response, whilst very positive about the impact they feel they could make, notes that at present they have some interest in Nursery places at Hovingham from September 2023 but none for Reception. They also acknowledge that their proposal will not be feasible without transitional funding.

The DfE have confirmed that if the local authority were to fund the school, then only the lump sum and rates should be allocated. The school would not be eligible for sparsity funding as there are no pupils so the school could not meet the eligibility criteria.

It is the view of Local Authority Officers that Schools Forum would not approve expenditure on a school with no pupils. The LA would have to publicly state this is its formal position, and then seek approval from the Secretary of State to override the School Forum's decision.

It is also the case that any request for funding for one school to remain open may have consequences/ considerations for other cases of potential school closure. The local authority maintains a number of schools who are in an accumulated deficit position

and/or are projecting to be in a financial deficit position. In viable school positions, the local authority requires local governing bodies to address any deficit and develop a recovery plan to operate within the funds and resources available.

Awarding funding to a school with no pupils, and not awarding funding to other schools in financial difficulty or who are geographically vital, and have pupils on roll risks setting a precedent that will not gain universal agreement and may result in potential future liabilities in other potential school closures

The school currently has no pupils on roll and there are no pending applications for places at the school. The school will receive no funding for the next financial year and the Local Authority is not in a position to approve any additional funding. It is clear from the response from the Ryedale Learning Trust that their proposal to continue the operation of the school would be predicated on the school receiving additional funding. For these reasons officers recommend that Members proceed with the closure process.

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.

Hovingham 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 Terrington CE VA Primary School which is situated 4.6 miles from Hovingham School. The next nearest school is St Hilda's CE VA Primary School which is 7.2 miles away.

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 Hovingham CE VC Primary School is not reserved for pupils with special educational needs.

Travel

Details of length and journeys to alternative provision.

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

Eligibility for home to school transport will be determined in line with the County Council's current home to school transport policy and procedures based on each child's home address and individual circumstances.

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

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

North Yorkshire County Council's Home to School transport policy states that 'Transport will be arranged so that children will not normally spend more than 1 hour 15 minutes travelling to a secondary school or 45 minutes to a primary school. Journey times might need to be longer than this in some more rural areas and where road or weather conditions mean that these times are not practical.' This is in line with statutory guidance from the Department for Education. The journey times for children living within the current Hovingham CE VC Primary School catchment area to other nearby primary schools would be well within these guidelines. The nearest schools are:

- Slingsby Community Primary School which is situated 2.2 miles from Hovingham CE VC School Primary School.
- Terrington CE VA Primary School (Federated with Foston CE VC School) is the nearest alternative Church of England Primary School, which is situated 4.6 miles from Hovingham CE VC Primary School.
- St Hilda's CE VC Primary School, Ampleforth which is situated 7.2 from Hovingham CE VC Primary School.

Any pupils living in the current Hovingham catchment area applying for school places at other local schools after the closure would be assessed under the home to school 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 County Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AE, or by email to schoolorganisation@northyorks.gov.uk by 3 March 2023.

Consultation

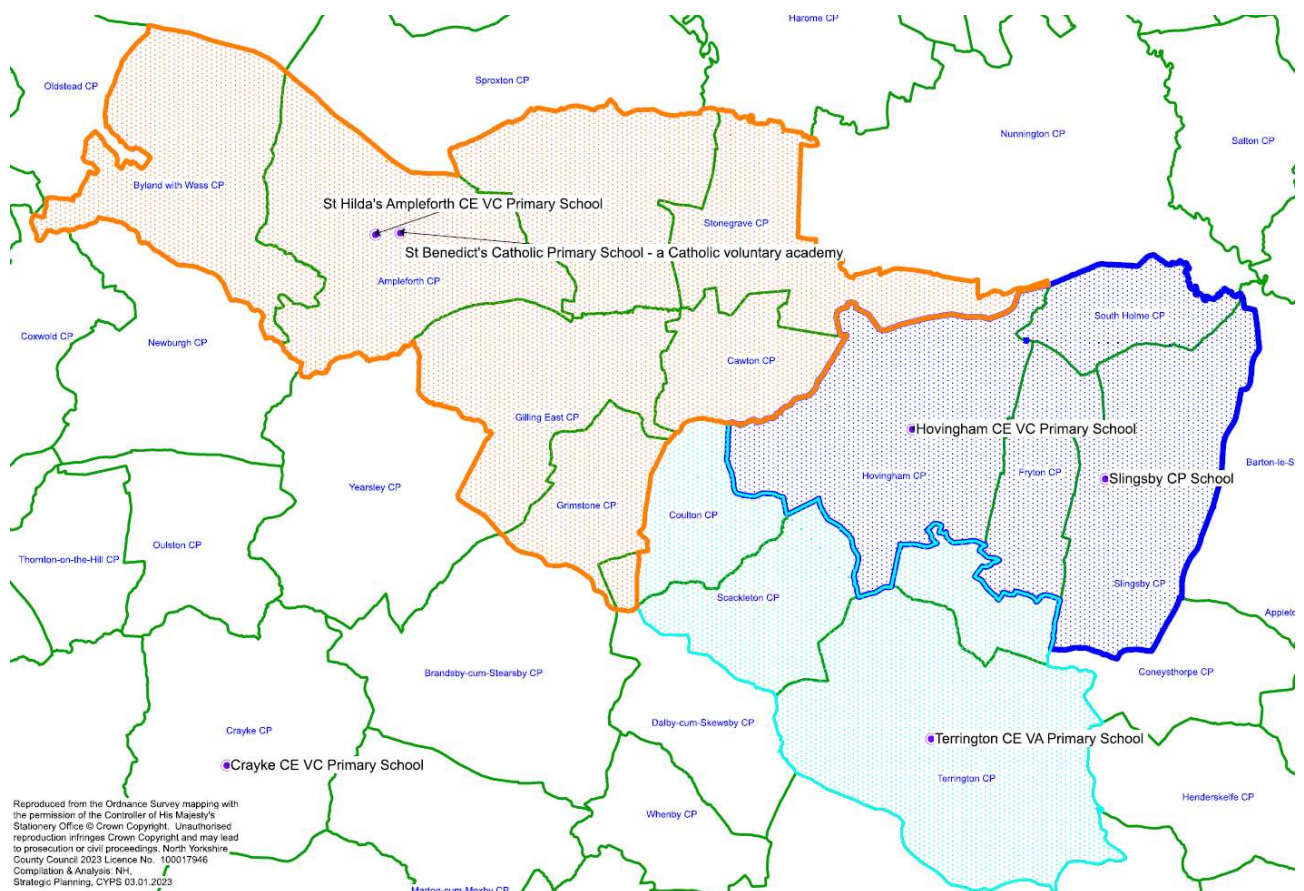
The decision to consult on closure was taken by the Executive Member for Schools

on 18 October 2023 following a request from governors. A consultation paper setting out the proposal was sent to 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 1 and 2 respectively. The consultation period ran from 31 October 2022 to 18 December 2022. A public meeting was held on 9 November, notes of the meeting are attached as Appendix 3. There have been 61 consultation responses received (Appendix 4).

Appendices – see Report to Executive, 24 January 2023

- Appendix 1: Consultation Paper
- Appendix 2: List of the Consultees
- Appendix 3: Notes of the Public Meeting
- Appendix 4: Consultation Responses
- Appendix 5: Response from Ryedale Learning Trust

Below is a map of the proposed catchment area which will be circulated as part of the Statutory Proposals.





Consultation Document

Proposal to close
Hovingham CE VC Primary School
from 31 March 2023

Hovingham CE VC Primary School

October 2022

This paper sets out details of a proposal to close Hovingham CE VC Primary School with effect from 31 March 2023. It gives the background to the proposal. There will be a public meeting on Wednesday 9 November 2022 at 6:30pm at Hovingham Village Hall.

Background

At a recent governing body meeting of the Federation of Hovingham CE Primary School and St Hilda's CE Primary School it was resolved, with regret and reluctance, to ask the County Council to consult on closure proposals for Hovingham CE Primary School.

The Federated Governing Body of Hovingham CE Primary School and St Hilda's CE Primary School, have not reached this decision lightly and have already worked to support the School through the Federation with St Hilda's CE VC Primary School, Ampleforth which has been in place since 2016.

The main factor prompting the request is there are currently no pupils on roll at Hovingham. The School has operated with 40 pupils or below for the last decade. Since the 2017/18 academic year there has been a downward trend of pupil numbers and pupils numbers fell from 33 in May 2020 to 24 in May 2021. This trend accelerated across the 2021/22 academic year with the school having 20 pupils on roll in October, 16 in January and only 7 in May 2022. Between May 2022 and the start of the new term in September 2022 all remaining pupils departed and no new starters commenced the term in September.

Finance is also a key concern. The pupil numbers for the October 2022 census form the basis of a schools' funding for the 2023/24 financial year. The Department for Education have confirmed that where a school has no pupils in the October census they will not allocate any funding for that school in the schools block element of Dedicated School Grant funding that a local authority receives to fund schools and academies located within the local authority area.

In addition, the permanent Headteacher post became vacant on 31 August 2022 and from September 2022 temporary leadership has been in place. This is provided by the Executive Headteacher of Foston, Terrington and Stillington schools, and covers both Hovingham and their Federated School, St Hilda's CE VC Primary School in Ampleforth. The Federation Governing Body will require clarity over the future of Hovingham School to allow them to make permanent arrangements for future leadership.

Factors Affecting the School's Viability

Pupil Numbers

Hovingham is a 3-11 CE VC Primary School and currently has no children on roll. The school is located in a rural area of Ryedale, serving families living in and near the village of Hovingham, and the surrounding area. The number of children at Hovingham CE VC Primary School has been falling over the past few years:

2014/15 – 35
 2015/16 – 36
 2016/17 – 37
 2017/18 – 37
 2018/19 – 29
 2019/20 – 33
 2020/21 – 24
 2021/22 – 7 (May 2022 Census)
 2022/23 – 0

The School has a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 8 pupils per year group. The School has capacity to accommodate up to 60 pupils if all spaces are in use, and therefore has the potential to contribute 60 places in the local area

The Financial Position

Pupil numbers determine the funding for a school budget. The Department for Education (DfE) have confirmed that in the exceptional situation where a school has no pupils, no funding would be provided to the local authority for that school through the DfE Dedicated School Grant (DSG) schools block funding; this is the grant funding used to fund school delegated budgets. North Yorkshire County Council will not receive a school funding allocation for Hovingham CE Primary in the 2023/24 financial year as no pupils were recorded on the DfE October 2022 school census. In the event of the school remaining open, the local authority would need to determine whether the school should continue to be funded through the school funding formula. If this were agreed, the school would receive the formula lump sum funding (2023/24 indicative value £128k) and the school rates funding (£2.5k). Any 2023/24 formula funding allocation for Hovingham CE Primary would need to be funded from the DSG funding allocations provided for other schools and academies within North Yorkshire.

The Federation of Hovingham CE Primary School and St Hilda's CE Primary School operate an amalgamated budget for the two schools within the Federation. The balance on the Federation amalgamated revenue budget as at 31 March 2022 was an overall budget surplus of £90.1k. The indicative position of the individual schools is a budget deficit of £5.2k for Hovingham and a budget surplus of £95.3k for St Hilda's.

There appears to be no reasonable long-term prospect of recovery for the Hovingham budget given there will be no DfE funding allocation for the school for the 2023/24 financial year.

The 2022/23 Start Budget submitted to the Local Authority for the Federation in May 2022 forecasts an accumulated revenue budget surplus at the end of the 2022/23

financial year of £27.5k. The budget forecasts that the Federation will have an accumulated revenue budget deficit of £71.8k at the end of the 2023/24 financial year and £196.5k accumulated revenue budget deficit at the end of the 2024/25 financial year. The financial forecast is based the following pupil number assumptions for Hovingham: October 2021 – 20 pupils, October 2022 – 8 pupils, October 2023 – 5 pupils.

In the event of Hovingham CE Primary closing on 31 March 2023, any legacy costs associated with the operation of the school incurred in the 2023/24 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.

School Leadership

As stated above there is no permanent leadership in place for the school due to the Headteacher post becoming vacant during the summer holiday period of 2022. Temporary leadership is currently provided by the Executive Headteacher of Foston, Terrington and Stillington schools. This arrangement covers both Hovingham School and St Hilda's CE VC Primary School in Ampleforth. Given both the practical and financial difficulties presented by Hovingham having no pupils it would not be possible to engage a permanent Headteacher to cover St Hilda's and Hovingham on the existing shared cost arrangements. The Federation Governing Body will require clarity over the future of Hovingham School to allow them to make permanent arrangements for future leadership.

Standards and Curriculum

The most recent full Ofsted inspection for Hovingham School was in October 2017. At that time there were 39 pupils on roll. Ofsted judged the school to be 'Good'. However, pupil numbers at Hovingham have fallen rapidly. 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. At present, if any pupils were to apply to join Hovingham School there is no realistic prospect of them being able to get a full and balanced school experience in the absence of any peers.

The last Ofsted inspection report for St Hilda's Primary School, Ampleforth related to an inspection in March 2020, and the overall effectiveness of the school was judged to be 'Good'.

Both of the above Ofsted inspections took place under the previous substantive headteacher. From September 2022 the leadership at Hovingham and St Hilda's has been provided by the current Executive Headteacher of Foston, Terrington and Stillington Primary Schools. The most recent Ofsted inspections at each of those three schools have taken place under her leadership.

Foston Primary School was subject to a short inspection in January 2020 that confirmed that the school continued to be judged 'Good'.

Terrington Primary School was subject to a short inspection in June 2018 that confirmed the School continued to be judged 'Good'.

The Executive Headteacher of Foston and Terrington began to provide leadership at Stillington in August 2020, the School having been judged 'Inadequate' since 2016. Stillington was last subject to full inspection in June 2021 when Ofsted recognised the progress at the School. The overall inspection outcome was 'Requires Improvement' and leadership and management were judged to be 'Good'.

Primary School places in the local area

There are currently no pupils on roll at Hovingham CE so there will be no immediate requirement to assist parents with seeking alternative places in the event of closure. However, it is important to ensure that there are sufficient school places in the local area.

In October 2021 there were 31 children living in Hovingham's discrete catchment area and attending a North Yorkshire school, and a further 11 living in the catchment area that Hovingham shares with St Hilda's. At that time 14 of those children were attending Hovingham and 28 were going to a total of nine alternative schools.

There are four other neighbouring primary schools within c.7 miles of Hovingham CE VC Primary School. Across the area there are places available in all year groups at various schools. Further details of school capacities and pupil forecasts are set out in an accompanying document.

The nearest school to Hovingham is Slingsby CP which is currently operating over their net capacity of 77. The Slingsby facilities offer some ability to operate over net capacity but limits them from having a planned admission number higher than 11.

Although Slingsby has typically been oversubscribed in recent years this is predominantly due to local popularity rather than an 'in area' need for places. In October 2021 there were 94 pupils on roll at outly. However, only 28 of these were pupils living within the Slingsby catchment area. Significant numbers of pupils currently attend Slingsby from the catchment areas of Nawton CP, Amotherby CP and St Hilda's CE.

If Hovingham were to close and Slingsby were to experience more 'in area' demand for places from an enlarged catchment area then applicants from that catchment area would receive priority for Reception places over applicants from other areas. For example, in the Reception year group during October 2021, five of the 11 pupils were attending from outside of the catchment area, and going forward with an enlarged catchment area we would expect that proportion could reduce.

There is currently capacity in all year groups at Terrington CE VA Primary School, which is the next nearest school. There are also places available in all year groups at St Hilda's CE Primary School, Ampleforth. Both of these schools have adjacent catchment areas to that of Hovingham CE Primary School and a Church of England designation.

The Proposal

For the reasons above it is proposed that Hovingham CE VC Primary School should close with effect from 31 March 2023.

Admissions and Catchment Areas

There is available capacity in the local area to ensure sufficiency of school places. Parents of future children living in the current Hovingham catchment area will be able to express a preference for school places at any school. However, residents are entitled to have a local school which their address gives them priority to attend in the event of oversubscription. Therefore, the current Hovingham catchment area will need to be subsumed into the catchment area for one or more of the surrounding schools.

Council Officers, having consulted with Diocesan representatives, have identified two options which seem to offer sensible catchment schools to the residents of the current catchment area. At present, there is a discrete catchment area solely for Hovingham, and a second area which is a shared area between Hovingham and St Hilda's, Ampleforth. The current catchment and possible options are shown on maps accompanying this consultation document

Option 1: Hovingham CE discrete catchment area (comprising the parishes of Hovingham, Scackleton, Stonegrave and most of Coulton) to become part of the catchment area for Slingsby CP. The area currently shared between Hovingham CE and St Hilda's to become part of St Hilda's catchment area.

Option 2: Hovingham parish to become part of the Slingsby CP catchment area. The area currently shared between Hovingham CE and St Hilda's and the parish of Stonegrave to become part of St Hilda's catchment area. Parishes of Coulton and Scackleton to become part of the catchment area for Terrington CE School.

As part of this consultation we are asking for views on these options for future catchment areas.

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

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

The school building is not owned by the County Council. Decisions about the future use of the school building will be taken by the owners after the closure proposal has been determined.

Additional Information

This consultation document should be read in conjunction with the following documents which can be found here <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/consultations> :

- Maps showing the current local catchment areas and two possible future options should Hovingham CE School close
- 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 County Council at the address below:

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

Online responses may be submitted by following this link:

<https://consult.northyorks.gov.uk/snapwebhost/s.asp?k=166695360806>

Responses to the consultation will be published on the County 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 Monday 28 November 2022

All responses to the consultation received by this date will be considered by the County Council's Executive on 13 December 2022.

If the County Council's Executive decides to proceed with the closure proposal, then statutory notices would be published in the local press on 6 January 2023. 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 County Council's Executive on 21 February 2023. If agreed, the school would close on 31 March 2023.

Anticipated Key Dates

All dates are subject to approvals at each stage.

Consultation opens	31 October 2022
Public meeting	9 November 2022
Consultation closes	28 November 2022
County Council's Executive considers consultation response	13 December 2022
Statutory Notices published (4 weeks for representations to be made)	6 January - 3 February 2023
Final decision by County Council's Executive	21 February 2023
Proposed school closure date	31 March 2023

Hovingham CE VC Primary School Consultation

This is a consultation on proposals to close Hovingham CE VC Primary School from 31 March 2023.

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.

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

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

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

Other (please state)

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Name of school:
(if applicable)

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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:

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Address:

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Postcode:

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

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Do you have any suggestions for improvement?

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

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

Or to submit your response online go to:

<https://consult.northyorks.gov.uk/snapwebhost/s.asp?k=166695360806>

To be received by no later than 28 November 2022

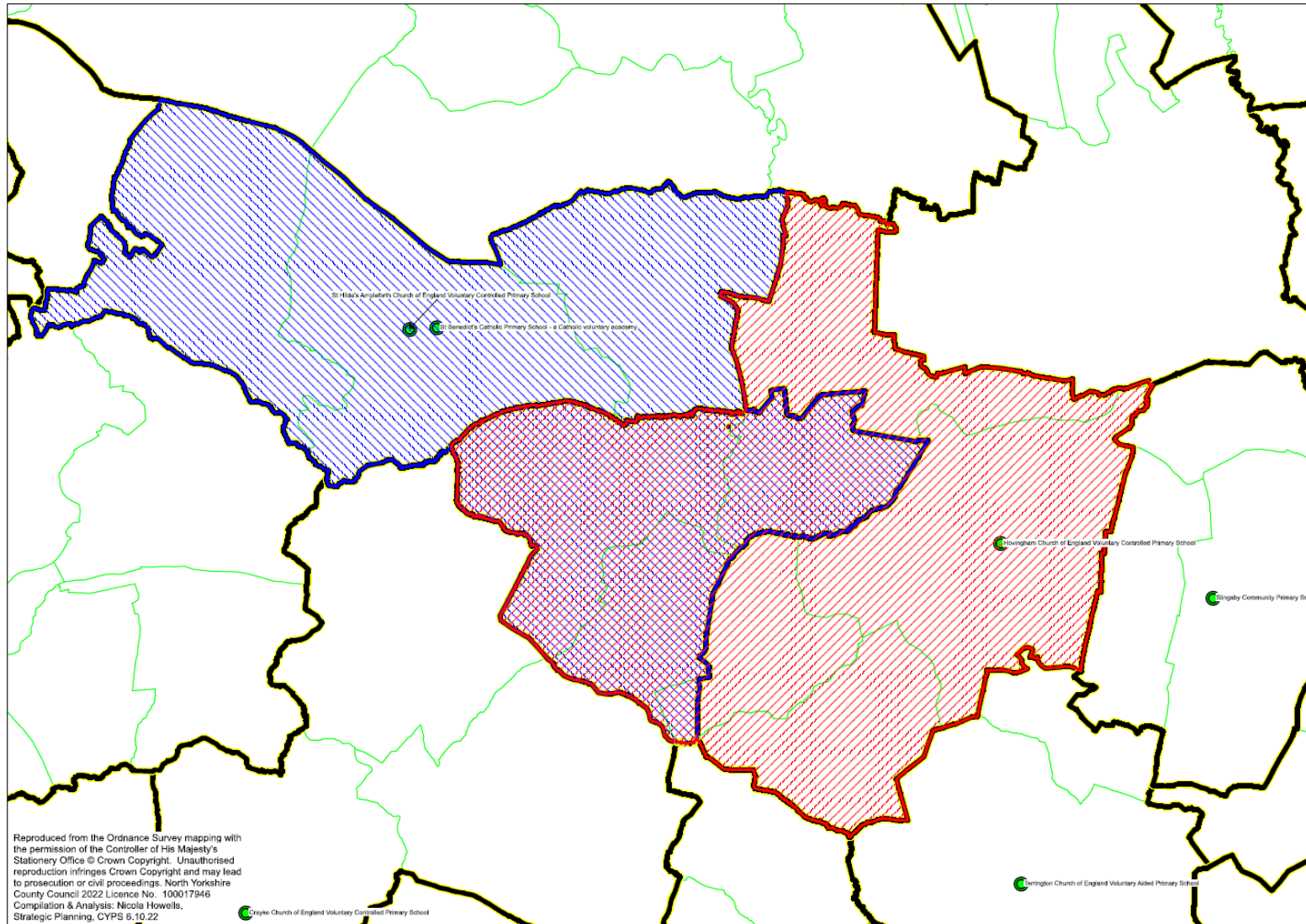
Local Schools Information

	Hovingham CE VC Primary School	St Hilda's Ampleforth CE VC Primary School	St Benedict's Catholic Primary School – a Catholic voluntary academy	Terrington CE VA Primary School	Slingsby Community Primary School	Total
Distance from Hovingham CE VC Primary School by road		7.2	6.9	4.6	2.2	
Last Ofsted Inspection	Good	Good	Good*	Good	Good	
Net Capacity (places available at the school)	56	49	105	63	77	350
Current pupil roll	0	27	72	26	91	216
Current capacity +/-	56	22	33	37	-14	134
Pupil roll 2023/24	0	28	71	29	91	219
Pupil roll 2024/25	0	26	73	29	91	219
Pupil roll 2025/26	0	27	69	30	88	214
Pupil roll 2026/27	0	27	69	26	84	206
Pupil roll 2027/28	0	27	67	29	83	206
Potential additional pupils from housing						
Pupils from outstanding permissions by 2027/28**	0	1	0	1	11	13
Potential pupils from future housing – Local Plan (over 15 years)	0	0	0	0	0	0

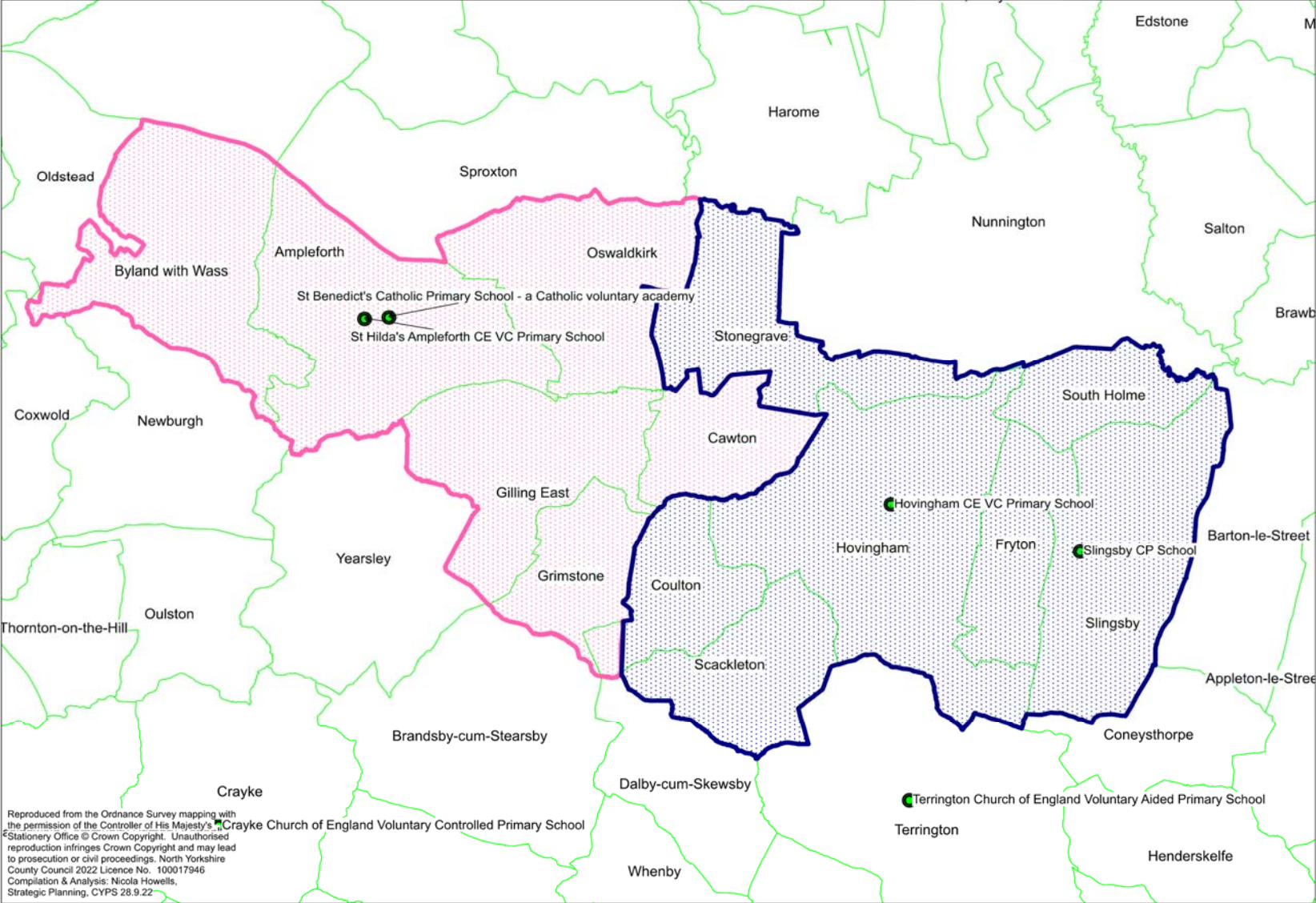
*Inspection date prior to academy conversion

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

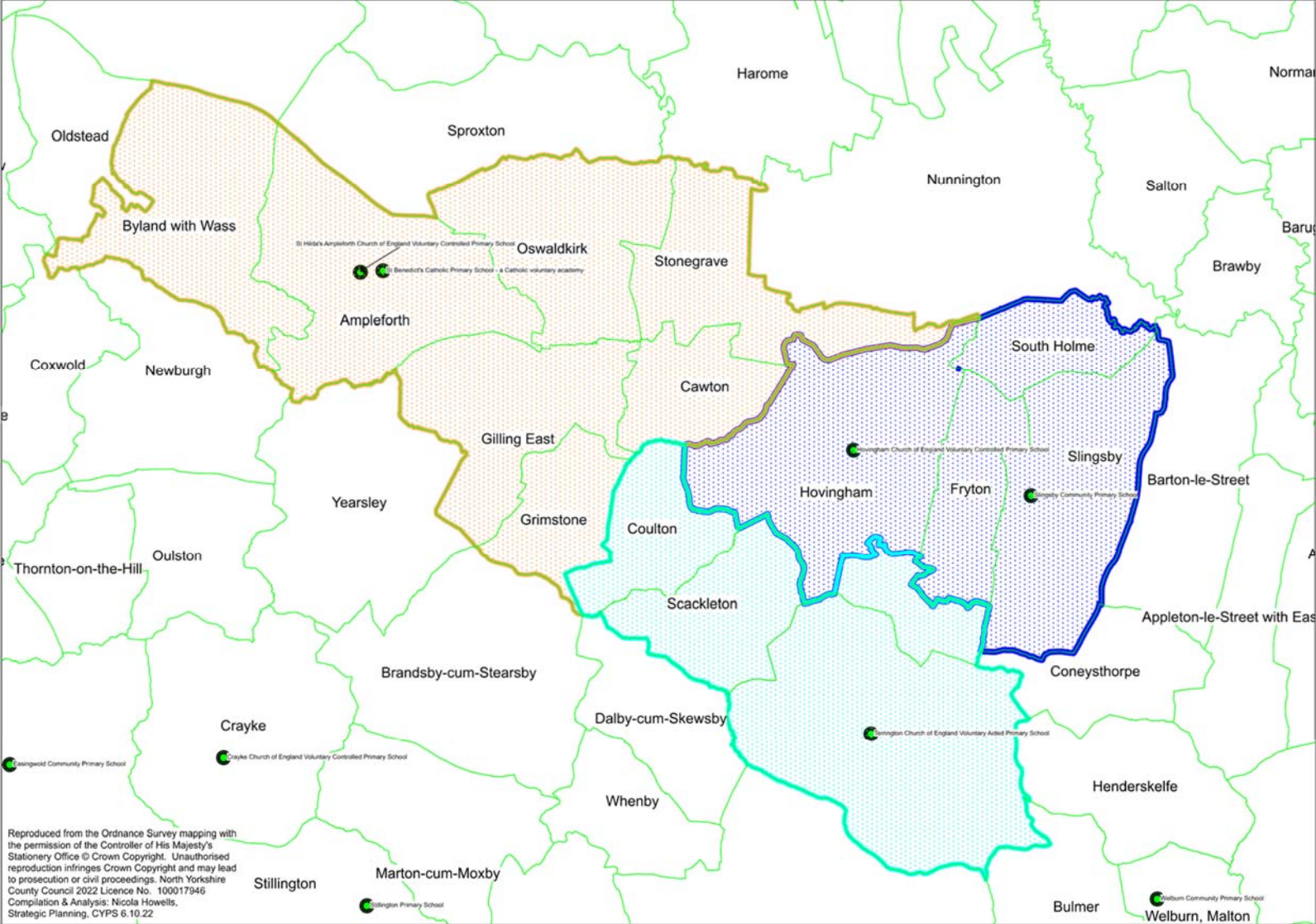
Maps showing Current Catchment areas and Local Schools as well as potential future catchment proposals.



Current Catchment Map: Red is Hovingham CE, Blue is St Hilda's CE and the central hatched area is shared between both schools.



Proposed option 1 - Hovingham CE discrete catchment area to become part of the catchment area for Slingsby CP. The area currently shared between Hovingham CE and St Hilda's to become part of St Hilda's catchment area.



Proposed option 2: Hovingham parish to become part of the Slingsby CP catchment area. The area currently shared between Hovingham CE and St Hilda's and the parish of Stonegrave to become part of St Hilda's catchment area. Parishes of Coulton and Scackleton to become part of the catchment area for Terrington CE School.

Indicative Table of Places Available in Local Schools

School	Distance from Hovingham CE School	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total on roll	Net Capacity
Hovingham CE	NA	Places	Places	Places	Places	Places	Places	Places	0	56
Slingsby CP	2.2	PAN	PAN	PAN	PAN	PAN	PAN	PAN	91	77
Terrington CE	4.6	Places	Places	Places	PAN	Places	Places	Places	26	63
St Benedict's RC, Ampleforth	6.9	Places	Place	Places	Places	Places	Places	Places	72	105
St Hilda's CE, Ampleforth	7.2	Places	Places	Places	Places	Places	Places	Places	27	49

PAN = School is at planned admission number, all applications will be dealt with on an individual basis and Admissions Team will have discussions with appropriate Headteacher to see if the school are in a position to take additional pupils in that year group.

Appendix 2Hovingham CE Primary School – List of Consultees

Hovingham CE Primary	Parents – N/A for this proposal
	Staff and governors
	Chair of Governors
Neighbouring Schools	Ampleforth St Hilda's CE
	Slingsby CP
	Terrington CE
	St Benedicts Catholic, Ampleforth
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
Local County Councillor - (Amotherby & Ampleforth) & (Helmsley & Sinnington)	Stephen Mason
	George Jabbour
Ryedale District Councillors	Claire Docwra
	Simon Thackray
Local Parish/Town council	Stonegrave
	Hovingham
	Gilling East
Community Organisations	Library Service
Local MP	Kevin Hollinrake
RSC	
Secretary of State	
Early Years Providers within 5 mile radius of Hovingham CE Primary School	
Other Consultees	Hovingham Baby & Toddler Group
	Trustees of School House
	Hovingham Estate
	Hovingham Parochial Church Council

Internal distribution	Advisor
	Governor Support
	HR Advisor
	School Admissions
	Passenger Transport
	Catering/Building Cleaning
	Press Office
	FMS Officer

APPENDIX 3

Notes of Public Consultation Meeting concerning Hovingham CE Primary School. Meeting held on 9 November 2022 at Hovingham Village Hall

Present: Johanna Senior (Chair of Hovingham School's Governing Body); County Cllr Annabel Wilkinson (Executive Member for Education, Learning and Skills, North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC)) Andrew Smith (Director of Education, Anglican Diocese of York), Sarah Moore (acting Headteacher of Hovingham School), , Amanda Newbold (Assistant Director, Education, Learning and Skills), Andrew Dixon (Strategic Planning Manager, (NYCC)), John Lee (Strategic Planning Officer, NYCC), Mark Ashton (Strategic Planning Officer, NYCC), County Cllr Steve Mason (Amotherby & Ampleforth division), County Councillor George Jabbour (Helmsley & Sinnington division) school staff, trade union representative parents, and residents.

Apologies: Kevin Hollinrake MP
64 people were present.

AGENDA

6:30	Meeting Opens – Brief welcome	Chair of Governors
6:30	Opening Remarks	Chair of Governors & Executive Member for Education, Learning and Skills
6:35	Presentation from NYCC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposal • Background to the proposal • How can people comment 	Local Authority Officer
6:50	Questions and Answers	Executive Member for Education Learning and Skills
	Closing Remarks	
8:00	Meeting Closes	

1. Welcome

Hovingham's Chair of Governors, Johanna Senior, opened the public meeting at 6.30 pm and she welcomed those present.

2. Chair of Governor's and Executive Member's Opening Remarks

Johanna Senior introduced herself as the Chair of Governors of Hovingham CE Primary School and then introduced various panel members sitting alongside her.

Ms Senior said that pupil numbers at Hovingham CE Primary School had declined to such a point that there were no longer any pupils in school. Therefore Hovingham School is no longer financially sustainable. As a result, the governing body had unanimously voted in favour of asking the Local Authority to consult on a proposal to close the school.

Ms Senior introduced County Councillor Annabel Wilkinson, who would chair the meeting.

Cllr Wilkinson introduced herself as the Executive Member for Education, Learning and Skills at NYCC.

Cllr Wilkinson outlined the agenda, saying that John Lee would make a slide presentation on the proposal. She said there would be an opportunity for questions and answers following John's presentation for the Local Authority, which she would chair.

3. Presentation from NYCC

The Strategic Planning Officer, NYCC, Mr John Lee explained that the meeting was being held to discuss the proposal to close Hovingham CE VC Primary School from 31 March 2023.

Mr Lee presented several Powerpoint slides, which included explaining the proposal (slides 3 and 4) and the proposal's background (slides 5 to 11). Slides 12 to 22 covered proposed new catchment area, while final slides 25 to 29 covered consultation timescale and details on how to respond to the consultation.

Mr Lee's slides explained how the background to the closure proposal has three parts, the falling roll, the financial position and leadership.

Mr Lee's early slides explained how falling pupil numbers formed one aspect of the background to the proposal. Mr Lee explained that the school has a net capacity of 60 spaces and that, while the numbers on roll have reduced since 2020, there was a significant drop from 24 to 7 between May 2021 and May 2022. Pupil numbers in the school had fallen far quicker than expected and there are currently 0 pupils on roll.

Mr Lee then went on to explain that associated with this very low cohort is a concern about the finance. As a result of pupil numbers falling to 0 the DfE has confirmed that no funding would be provided to NYCC for Hovingham School for 2023/24. Any 2023/24 NYCC funding for Hovingham CE Primary would need to be made from the funding allocations provided by DfE for other schools and academies within North Yorkshire.

Mr Lee explained that Hovingham School is federated with St Hilda's CE School Ampleforth and the two schools operate an amalgamated budget, which is forecasting an accumulated deficit of £196.5k by the end of 2024/25. This deficit forecast is based upon decreasing pupil numbers, but assumed 8 pupils at Hovingham in October 2022 and 5 in October 2023. Mr Lee said that the school's financial projections do not factor in 0 pupils.

Mr Lee explained how there was no permanent leadership in place for Hovingham school due to the Headteacher post becoming vacant. While temporary leadership is currently provided by the Executive Headteacher of Foston, Terrington and Stillington schools, given the practical and financial difficulties presented by Hovingham having no pupils it would not be possible to engage a permanent Headteacher on the existing shared cost arrangements

In order to consider future catchment areas should Hovingham School close, Mr Lee gave details on the four neighbouring primary schools, including their distances from Hovingham and their good Ofsted judgements. Mr Lee explained that there are 4 neighbouring North Yorkshire primary schools within c.2 to 7 miles of Hovingham School: Slingsby (Community); St Hilda's Ampleforth (CE VC); St Benedict's (Catholic); and Terrington (CE VA).

Council Officers have identified two options which seem to offer sensible catchment schools to the residents of the current catchment area, should Hovingham School close. At present, there is a discrete catchment area solely for Hovingham, and a second catchment area which is a shared area between Hovingham and St Hilda's, Ampleforth. In Option 1

Slingsby's catchment would be expanded to accommodate Hovingham CE's discrete catchment area, and the area currently shared between Hovingham and St Hilda's would become part of St Hilda's catchment area. Under Option 2, Hovingham parish would become part of Slingsby's catchment area, the area currently shared between Hovingham and St Hilda's would become part of St Hilda's catchment area, and the parishes of Coulton and Scackleton would become part of the catchment area for Terrington CE School.

Mr Lee explained that views on these two options, or other ideas for future catchment areas, should the school close, are being asked for as part of this consultation.

Mr Lee then explained how school staff would be looked after during the consultation. He said that there is a parallel staff consultation process being undertaken.

He said that the federated governing body would remain in place during the consultation. In the event of closure, the federation would be disestablished and a new governing body established for St Hilda's Ampleforth.

Mr Lee then outlined the consultation's time-scales and he emphasised that a two-stage consultation process would take place before any decisions on the proposals are taken. All views expressed at this public meeting would form part of the report which is considered when the decision on whether to proceed to the second statutory consultation is taken. The statutory consultation is a further 4 week period when there is opportunity for comments and responses.

Mr Lee then handed over to Cllr Wilkinson, who chaired the question and answer session.

4. Questions and Answers – chaired by Cllr Annabel Wilkinson.

Cllr Annabel Wilkinson, the Executive Member for Education, Learning and Skills, invited questions from those present.

A resident, said that, if the school had acted like a private company, it would not find itself in this position. She said that a private company would not wait until the end before acting. Instead, it would ask customers what is wrong. She said that no one had tried to find this out earlier and the public meeting is therefore 4 or 5 years too late

John Lee replied that governors will always be getting feed-back from parents and the local community as part of their role.

Mr Lee added that a public meeting like this is only part of the formal consultation process. He said, if a public meeting like this had been held earlier, it might lead to concerns and only serve to de-stabilize the school.

The resident then asked where is the slide showing the evidence of the investigative work that has been done over the last five years?

A resident asked whether there was any information on children left the school and why there was such a drastic decline in pupils in the school.

A resident and also a member of the Action Group, said he had a wide range of evidence to support his claim that there had been a failure in the school's leadership, which led to pupils and staff leaving.

The resident said that he believed there was still a need for the school and that all the schools in the area should be looked at when considering closure.

Amanda Newbold, Assistant Director for Education, Learning and Skills in the Children and Young People's Service of NYCC, replied that the local management of schools is a matter for governors.

Mrs Newbold said that this case is unusual in that the numbers have dropped so rapidly and the pupil charts and forecasts in the presentation showed declining numbers and an issue with viability.

Mrs Newbold said that, if it is felt that there is a strong case to continue with the school, this consultation is the opportunity to express that. This is an opportunity to respond to the consultation.

The resident said there had been a failure in leadership and in governance. He said that decisions were being taken at great pace and he asked what plans were in place to grow the school and to bring the pupil numbers up.

Mrs Newbold said the school governors had developed plans for growth and she asked Johanna Senior to comment on this.

Johanna Senior, the Chair of Governors replied that the governing body had developed plans for growth.

She continued that their growth plans had included developing links with the baby and toddler group and with the nursery. There had been a staff exchange, with school staff going over to the playgroup.

Ms Senior said that their plans also included developing links with the Forest schools. They had also explored options for outdoor learning in the Hovingham Estate.

She said that the growth plan had involved governors organising a school open day during the summer holiday to attract parents. Similarly it had involved organising a stall on Hovingham market, with displays of school work.

She concluded that in these ways and others governors had gone to considerable lengths to explore and promote their plans for growth and to publicize that the school need more children.

The resident replied that while these plans and actions helped, what was missing were a good curriculum and a good Headteacher. However, he said, the key issue for parents was the lack of wrap around care and this was needed to attract more pupils.

Cllr Wilkinson thanked the resident for his various comments and asked him to put those views in his response to the consultation. She asked if others had questions.

A resident said that a neighbour in the village had 2 children and drove them to an alternative school every day. Her neighbour's children did not attend Hovingham because of the school's lack of wrap around care.

An ex chair of governors and a parent, asked why the governors had asked for the consultation. She said if the governors had not asked, what would happen.

Mrs Newbold replied that the Local Authority had held various meetings with the governors in the summer term because they could see that the numbers were very low. The governors

put forward their plans for growth and the Local Authority supported this. However, concern about numbers was still an issue.

The ex chair of governors responded to Mrs Newbold by saying that those plans for growth were similar to those developed when she was chair of governors. They could not get these actions off the ground due to the head. She said she had asked for exit interviews to take place with leavers, but this was not followed up.

She said that St Hilda's would be placed in a tricky financial situation in the event of Hovingham closing, and St Hilda's would need to look for another partner to share leadership costs.

Cllr Wilkinson asked the ex chair of governors to put her views into her response to the consultation.

Mrs Newbold replied that in the event of closure there would be a dissolution of the federation and it would be likely that St Hilda's would look for another partner to federate with. She asked Mr Lee to expand on governance arrangements in the event of closure.

Mr Lee confirmed that the schools are currently federated under one governing body and that the governing body would be dissolved on closure and that St Hilda's would need to look for other partners to share their leadership costs.

It was asked how likely is it that they will be able to find a partner, given they are close to an academy.

Andrew Smith, the Director of Education, Anglican Diocese of York, replied that the likelihood of the school finding a partner is quite strong. He said it is likely that small schools will work together, because they need to share their costs. Funding issues around schools are an issue we are all aware of and this is a reason why schools are keen to look for partners.

Mr Smith then went on to talk about the difficulty of parental preference for small village schools. He went on to expand this point by explaining that there are usually spare places in village schools so parental preference for an out of catchment school is freely available. Parental preference for other popular schools is significant in increasing the difficulty for village schools in sparsely populated areas.

A parent of a child of school age, explained she is part of the committee who set up the playgroup. She challenged the school's development plan. She said that the claim there had been links with the playgroup was disingenuous because the head did not pursue this. She said there were 20 to 35 attending the playgroup session each Wednesday.

She said that the school's open-day during the summer was not widely published.

She added that parents would attend, if wrap around care was made available.

A school governor at Hovingham said, while he could accept the argument too little too late and that their development plan was similar, there had been a lot of hard work on the part of the school governors.

The governor said that, while he agreed that wrap around care was an important issue for parents, the governors did try and put this provision on. However, while the request for wrap around care was high, the actual take up for it was very low. He then asked what NYCC would need to see out of the consultation to keep the school afloat.

Mrs Newbold replied that the Councillors are the decision makers. She said they will make the decision based on the information presented to them.

Mrs Newbold said that at the moment they are seeing the information that there are no children on roll and an inability to recruit future leadership. She concluded that ultimately their decision is going to come down to pupil numbers.

Cllr Wilkinson referred back to the financial information in the presentation, particularly the DfE's confirmation that they would not fund the school in future.

The governor asked if the DfE were not now going to fund the school, where could future funding come from.

Cllr Wilkinson and Mr Lee both replied that it would have to be taken from the existing budgets of other schools.

Steve Mason, the Local County Councillor, said he had some questions to ask, based on points made. He asked whether a discussion has been held with Slingsby Primary about partnering with Hovingham.

Cllr Steve Mason then asked about home to school transport. He said that the increased cost of transport to other schools should be factored into the closure proposal, and that budgets should be allocated to the schools, rather than on buses.

Cllr Mason asked if this situation is 'really unusual', as claimed, should it not be examined? When you get an anomaly you look into it. So if there were leadership issues at the school, why were these not thoroughly looked into?

Mr Lee replied that the total school transport costs would depend on future catchment area arrangements. Home to school transport is provided in line with NYCC policy, which is that home to school transport would be provided to the catchment school if the child lived more than 2 miles away aged under 8 and more than 3 miles away if aged 8 to 11. Mr Lee said that he could not give a total figure to transport costs until future catchment areas and pupil entitlements were established.

On Cllr Mason's question about contacting Slingsby Andrew Dixon, Strategic Planning Manager, said that an early stage in the summer when this was looking a possibility the LA did make sure that the governing board of other local schools were aware of this developing situation. He said that other local schools were made aware of low numbers, the proposed timescales, were consultees and therefore made aware of the consultation.

Cllr Mason responded by asking whether Slingsby had been directly approached to partner.

Mr Dixon said it was for those schools to express an interest in partnering, if they assessed partnering desirable and something they wanted to consider. He said a difficulty, however, is that if you are operating a school across two sites that comes with additional costs and you would have to clear that was absolutely needed in the local context.

Mr Dixon concluded by saying that Slingsby is aware of the consultation and it is for them to determine how they want to respond.

An accountant and a finance governor at another school, said he wanted to throw into the air a question for everyone to ask themselves, even if the rescue plans work. He questioned whether, even if the plans worked and pupil numbers went up to 35, given the current

situation of funding and costs, particularly staff costs, would the school be viable. He said that even with larger schools with higher pupil numbers school deficits are getting bigger and bigger.

He explained that while there had been a small increase in his school's funding, 85% of the costs were salaries and there had just been a pay award. He said that in a large school it is possible to spread the additional costs to some extent. However, in a small school of 30 or so pupils it is not possible to spread the costs. He said even if the rescue plans work, at 35 pupils the school would be unviable financially, in his experience, unless central government puts more money into school budgets.

An ex governor of Hovingham School, said that the previous head of Slingsby had tried repeatedly to partner with Hovingham, through shared sports days and shared work, but at every opportunity the head would not entertain the idea.

Mrs Newbold responded by saying she didn't think anyone on the panel would speak about an individual.

Andrew Smith, from the Diocese of York, said that it was unfair to comment on an individual who was an employee and who is not present.

Gary McVeigh-Kaye, Secretary of the North Yorkshire branch of the National Education Union, said he represented 3 members of staff who had given their lives to the school. He said it was sad, as someone who works in education, to see this situation for a second time recently, since he had faced a similar closure proposal recently in Harrogate, where pupil numbers had similarly gone down and down.

Mr McVeigh-Kaye said the Harrogate experience had taught him that collecting names of potential future pupils was key. He said if the community in Hovingham is strong enough to work together to collect names, it could help.

A resident asked when the deadline for pupils applying for places in the next academic year.

Mrs Newbold replied that the primary admissions deadline for next year is 15 January. However, she added, parents can make in-year applications to change school at any time of year.

Mr Dixon added that the next stage in the consultation process for County Councillors to make a decision is 13 December.

The Estate Manager at Hovingham Estate, said she was representing the owner of the Estate, who is away. She wanted to make clear that the Hovingham Estate has been very supportive of the school in recent years. She said the forest school had already been mentioned and that the Estate would do anything it could to support the school going forward. The Estate sees the school as key to the village and does not want the school to close.

A resident, said that his children did not go to the school because his wife works and they need wrap around care. He said children go to other schools because of the lack of wrap around care and was critical of previous senior management.

A woman who had been an administrator at the school when numbers were higher, said that she thought the adviser should have been frequently visiting the school when numbers were

dropping. She asked whether advisers had visited frequently and whether references were checked.

Cll Clare Docwra said, while she was a Ryedale District councillor, she was representing the local MP, Keith Hollinrake, who could not attend. Cllr Docwra said that, however, Mr Hollinrake wanted to let the community know he is behind them and would support the residents in their objections to the proposal.

A teacher at Hovingham, said she wanted to share her experiences at the school, which pick up on the main points raised. She explained that she had been a teacher at Hovingham for many years, that staff loved the school, were determined to keep it going, and felt like their concerns had not been listened to.

She said the staff had asked for wrap around care to be made a priority several years ago. She accepted that it might not be financially viable initially. However, she thought that the school's budget should be prepared to take a financial hit initially, in the hope that it would subsequently become financially viable.

She said that under a previous head the school had attracted pupils from other catchment areas. She said that she had raised her concerns with advisers on a number of occasions when numbers were dropping.

She said some families with several children had sent their oldest to the school but not their youngest due to issues.

The Chair, County Cllr Annabel Wilkinson, thanked the teacher for expressing her personal experiences in school and asked whether there were any final comments or views on the proposal.

The teacher said she wanted people to know the heart of the school is still there. She said the teachers and staff are still in the school and wanted to develop links with the community.

A member of support staff, said she was serving the final stage of her redundancy, and that she had lost her job because of the situation.

The teacher said the deadline for responses to the consultation was too short. She asked if the consultation period had been shortened from 6 weeks to 4 weeks.

Mr Dixon replied that the first stage of the consultation process is non-statutory. There is no specific time frame and in fact no statutory requirement for it to be held at all. He said that it is actually the second part where there is a statutory 4 week consultation period.

Mr Dixon said it was the case that in North Yorkshire there is usually a 6 week consultation initially, but that is not always the case and the last consultation undertaken at another school was also 4 weeks.

Mr Dixon said that to run the timeframe through, given that there were no pupils and the pertinent point that DfE funding would stop, the informal consultation period was 4 weeks to enable the timeframes for decisions to be met. That timetable had to be adopted to enable members to make a decision before the end of the financial year.

The teacher said the school still has a good Ofsted judgement and enquiries for pupils to attend had been made.

A grandparent said her grandchild would be disappointed not to attend.

A woman said that at playgroup that morning a parent had said their child would attend.

Cllr Wilkinson starting to draw the meeting to a close, by asking whether there were any final questions.

A resident said that there should be schools retained in each village and in order to do this each school should share their skills and their buildings.

5. CLOSING REMARKS

The Chair, Cllr Wilkinson, drew the meeting to a close by thanking everyone for their thoughtful questions. .

Cllr Wilkinson assured those present that all of their comments would be included in the minutes and considered in the final report.

The Meeting Closed at 7.55 pm

APPENDIX 4**Consultation responses**

	Do you have any comments about the closure proposal?	Do you have any comments about catchment areas?	Interest / Status	Do you have any suggestions for improvement?
1	It appears to be a very sad sign of the times in that a very long lived successful school that has served the community for decades (if not a century or more!) has had to close despite there being more children than ever who need good quality education within their community. With this being so it would possibly point to mismanagement somewhere along the road possibly which has led to the steady decline in pupil numbers?	We have tried to get our child into local schools within our catchment area (the Hovingham area) and all have been full to capacity which has forced us to seek other means of educating our child.	Parent	
2	I think that closure is short sighted. From my knowledge of the school and local community, (children attended 2009 - 2018), I believe that the drop in numbers is due to the most recent Headteacher, his lack of involvement in the community, his communication skills with parents, lack of wrap around care and a lack of vision for the school. From this difficult current position, creative thinking will be needed, (eg changing the federation status, sharing head/staff/pupils with another successful local school). Please give it time. The reason numbers dropped off so rapidly was due to the school becoming too small. It was clear locally for the last few years this was the direction of travel - why did NYCC not step in sooner?	With the proposed increase in housing locally, there would be increased demand for places. Parents like small village schools. Allowing the other schools to become large will detract from this.	Community	
3	Yes, it is NOT the school which has failed but the Head xxxxxx, the governance and the authorities. Since xxxxx joined the school the numbers of pupils has started to decline. At no point has anyone asked the question why? This was confirmed in the Public meeting at Hovingham Village Hall when the question was raised. Parents, teachers and the village playgroup team have all been 'ignored' by xxxxx and the teachers have some shocking examples of how they were left to feel isolated and not listened to. I personally witnessed xxxxx come over to the Playgroup after being invited and stayed for 5 minutes in the kitchen without engaging with any of the parents. Then he left. If this was a private company then questions would have been raised after 6 months of numbers starting to fall but astonishingly it has been left until the number is 0! Even now, no-one is asking why, but instead putting all their research into what will happen after the closer. I repeat, why were		Community	There needs to be evidence of all investigations that have taken place over the past few years as numbers started to fall from what was a thriving school. How was the performance review for xxxxx the headmaster and how often was it carried out? If numbers continued to fall under his management then why was he allowed to continue?

	no questions asked? It is not the school which has failed but the management of it.			
4	I am strongly apposed to the suggested closure of Hovingham CofE school and feel the community, the school, it's staff and pupils have been seriously let down over recent years. There is a definat need for the school and the unfortunate publicity stating the school is closing has deterred parents from apply for the 2023 intake. I manage a local nursery and am aware of multiple families who would have put Hovingham as their first choice for 2023 and 2024s intakes.		Parent	
5	Gilling East with Coulton, Cawton and Grimston Parish Council considered the proposal to close Hovingham School at the 9.11.22 meeting. It was agreed to register the disappointment of the Parish Council regarding the closure. Many children from the 4 parishes had attended the school over the years and it is important to maintain a balanced rural community as it will be a factor is where younger families choose to live.		Community	
6	I strongly object to the schools closure and would expect NYCC to support proposals for reopening in 2023 given they have housing proposals onboard increasing demand for places in the future	No	Governor	
7	It's simply wrong to close a school when the reason pupils were withdrawn and social media reputation is poor was due solely to the head teacher who was not performance managed.	If you close a school you do it on logistics and catchment. You would close a school where there are two not one that increases logistical costs	Community	Simple petition not one designed to support closure. The panel at the public meeting were appalling lollipops, no answers, no investigation and generally pretty vacant. Great tax saving material.
8	I think it's a shame that a community with a growing child population will not have a school		Parent	
9	The school is a very important asset for families in the area			
10	Closure just seems a silly option when the school has being failed by the head, the governors and NYCC. Small schools are needed so much especially with possible planning developments for do many houses in the area, where will children end up going to school?? People will end up driving miles causing so much more pollution.	I feel catchment area should be made smaller, forcing people to use schools in the immediate area.	Parent	Will Slingsby school bursting at the seems, I'm sure alternative solutions could be found with Hovingham School. Between the two make a junior and infant school with slightly different start and finishing times. Hovingham also needs support of before and after school clubs.
11	I am very disappointed at the proposal to close the school. Hovingham is a popular, vibrant village with an excellent community		Community	

	spirit and as such a school plays a very important part in this. The council's call for sites plan for the village shows the increase in potential housing and there will need to be the appropriate infrastructure to support this, i.e. provision of a school, etc. The school was given a good Ofsted rating and the fall in numbers can be attributed to bad leadership which was not addressed early enough, if at all.			
12	This is completely unnecessary, there are many children in this area that with new leadership would use this school	Children used to come from far and wide to this school and from way out of catchment too	Other	This school needs more support than it has had and needs wrap around care then it will flourish like it always had for the last 159 years
13	There is a need for this rural school, whilst there are no children this current academic year this is down to poor management and the support from the community and especially the predicted numbers for the next few years means it's crucial the school stays open		Parent	
14	The school should not be closed - poor management and governance should not be a reason to close a school.	Keep the current catchment areas and help Hovingham to attract new pupils. Oversubscribed schools should direct new pupils to Hovingham	Community	Give options to keep school open
15	Yes we need the school for our son in a couple years, just because the previous headmaster was unsatisfactory does not mean the school should close that's a reflection on bad management not the necessity or support for the school, vital Rural service		Parent	
16	Yes the need for rural schools remains the same - more people move into the countryside and plans for development mean that Hovingham said should not close. Listen to the community - better management required		Other	
17	My grandson will need this school in a couple of years much like many other children coming up to school age in the village and around it. Get a better head teacher in who understands how to manage and engage with the local community		Other	
18	Hovingham School should not close. It has been a highly successful school for over 150 years & should be preparing to celebrate 160 years. The school is rated good (Ofsted) & Outstanding (SIAMs) The school offers a broad and balanced curriculum, with opportunities to learn in the Hovingham estate through forest schools provision, use of the greens and weekly worship in the local	Local children should be able to attend their local school. Wath Court nursery, in Hovingham, operates a substantial waitlist, demonstrating that there are children in the area. Developments planned for the	Parent	The public consultation meeting on November 9th 2022 presented only a case for closing the school and not for keeping it open or alternative options to secure the future of the school. This bias demonstrates the council's will to see

	<p>church. Children who attend Hovingham School benefit from opportunities to learn about rural industries and their surrounding countryside from well-established links with Ryevitalise, Duncombe Park & Hovingham Hall. The staff are highly skilled, maximise learning opportunities, liaise across the sites with St Hilda's, share expertise and give the children more opportunities to socialise. The school has historically, taken part in sporting events run by Ryedale School, building links and familiarity to ensure a smooth & confident transition from a small school to a much larger one. Recent decline in pupil uptake has been due to lack of wrap around care and the reputation & inaction of the headteacher, such as the retraction of staff from cluster school events and meetings, and reluctance to reinstate learning opportunities post-covid (opportunities that competing schools were quick to reinstate, such as swimming lessons, trips and visitors). The school should not close due to the negligence and inaction of the headteacher and council; everything should be done to ensure it's future with a strategic relaunch. Small schools were systematically shut down in Wales forcing children to face commutes of an hour, sometimes on multiple buses in order to get to schools that were not designed for the numbers they then found themselves drowned in. We can ill-afford to have the same situation in Ryedale where 1 in 4 residents are 65+. Without investing in schools, young people will be deterred from moving into the area, losing the benefits of a young population.</p>	<p>service village of Hovingham, will see more families move into the area and there will continue to be a need for the school. As catchment currently stands, local children can either attend St Hilda's Ampleforth with a starting mixed class of nursery-year 2 which after 8 years remains in Requires Improvement, St Ben's Ampleforth a Roman Catholic School (not a choice for) or Hovingham CEVC Primary School- a good school with outstanding SIAMs. Should Hovingham close, I would be forced to seek a place at a school beyond the current catchment, extending car journey times and facing increased competition for a place at another school. The interim headteacher stands to gain from the closure of Hovingham- another bias towards closing a much-loved school.</p>	<p>the school close. The consultation should be halted with immediate effect and only reinstated once every avenue to prevent the closure of this rural school has been explored. The school should be mothballed and plans made for a successful relaunch in September 2023. Given the 8 years of Requires Improvement rating of EYFS at St Hilda's, Hovingham would be well suited to relaunch as the infant school of the federation, with St Hilda's forming the junior school. This would maximise the expertise of the current highly-skilled and experienced Hovingham staff and secure better futures for both schools within the federation- each with its own identity and spaces used efficiently. The council, having identified the decline in numbers having knowingly allowed the demise of pupil and staff numbers when they should have intervened. The following questions should be answered: Given the rapid decline in pupil numbers, what did the council do to support the school? Given that two staff well-being surveys were commissioned by the concerned governing body through NYCC, what did NYCC do following the telling results? Given the complaints raised against the headteacher, what did the council do to improve the circumstances that led to the complaints being raised in the first place? Why wasn't an interim headteacher instated at the bequest of the council when concerns were first identified? Given Slingsby School is operating beyond their PAN, why have</p>
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				the council proposed to extend the catchment area for that school? Why did the school improvement partner refuse to talk to staff, parents and governors who raised their concerns with her in the spring term of 2022?
19	I am against the proposed closure as I think there is a real need for rural schools.	We have friends in this catchment area and it would be a shame and a hassle if their son had to go to a different school.	Community	Not sure why it asks for name of school again but it's not a problem. Maybe could ask more questions on the impact on the local area.
20	My nephew lives in Hovingham and the plan is for him to go to the local school. There is such a need for a school in the village and for surrounding areas.	Think the school should widen the catchment area so it can appeal to more of an audience. Hovingham was always an excellent school and very popular a few years ago.	Other	
21	Hovingham CE VC should not close. It has been a centre of excellent education for over 150 years. It was judged "good" by Ofsted and more importantly "outstanding" by SIAMs. The rural education which Hovingham gives its pupils is second to none. It is important that the children learn all about the wide world and the three r's but in addition it is crucial that children learn all about the landscape and the rural activities/industries in which they grow up in so that they can truly appreciate their surroundings. Forest school is an immensely important part of the curriculum which has taken place in the Hovingham Estate. The children are also able to socialise with St. Hilda's and moreover take part in the Ryedale School sports events which helps build a smooth transition from a small to "big" school. A recent decline in numbers at Hovingham has solely been due to the inaction, reputation and care of the headmaster. Moreover, he was reluctant to reinstate learning opportunities post Covid, such as swimming, trips out and visitors, which other schools in the area were quick to restore. It has had nothing to do with the highly motivated, skilled and dedicated staff who have done their very best over the years. The school should not close because of one man and his failings. The council should and must recognise that and also take responsibility for their lack of action too. It is sad to think that Hovingham might go the way of so many small primary schools. Each rural village needs a school, pub, church and shop. It is what keeps the community alive and vibrant.	Every child should be able to attend their local village school. The nursery school in Hovingham has a long waiting list meaning there are children in the area. Indeed, the local plan for the service village of Hovingham is for a number of new houses to be built with the prospect of more children wanting a local village school. Local children can either go to St. Hilda's (still "requiring improvement"), St. Ben's Catholic School, or Hovingham "good" with outstanding SIAMs. Should Hovingham close, children will be forced out of the catchment area facing increased competition for a place in another school and longer journey times. It has not been unnoticed by many that the interim head teacher also stands to gain from the closure of Hovingham.	Other	On 9th November '22 the public consultation meeting presented only a case for school closure and not for keeping Hovingham open or alternative future options. There is a clear bias by the council to close Hovingham. The consultation should stop immediately and only be reinstated once every avenue has been explored. The school should be inoperative until a successful relaunch in September 2023. The council, having seen a decline in pupil numbers allowed the demise of pupil and staff numbers without intervening and turned a blind eye. Why? Why didn't the council do anything when complaints against the headmaster were first raised? Why wasn't an interim head teacher put in place when concerns were first identified? When two staff well-being surveys were commissioned by the governing body what did the council do following the results? Why did the school improvement partner

	Otherwise they end up with little or no young people, being ghost villages, with only old people living there. In Wales councils have closed so many small schools, building large modern structures to aid their own CV's, where thousands of children flounder under the system and often spend hours on buses each day. Look how Welsh schools have preformed in the last few years. Save Hovingham School.			refuse to talk to parents, staff and governors who raised concerns with her in the 2022 Spring term? Given that Slingsby Primary School is operating beyond it's pupil number capacity, why have the council proposed to extend it's catchment area? It makes no sense at all.
22	Absolutely disgraceful! This school has been the centre of the community for longer than I have been alive. By making small changes, such as an out of school club, it would once again thrive. The fact that is has been allowed to be run into the ground reflects very badly on the council. The fact that the head is now in charge elsewhere doesn't bode well for that school. He clearly is being used to close places down. I'm disgusted with how this has been handled and devastated that my children potentially can't access such an amazing place of education.	If you cant beat them join them. Slingsby school haven't got the space nor ability to extend. More houses are being built and they are turning kids away. Why not split the age groups up, have slingsby as younger and hovingham as older and use a shuttle bus service. Alternatively provide out of school care and Hovingham School will once again thrive!	Other	As suggested. Either become competitive by providing out of school clubs or join forces with a successful local school that is having to turn local children away. There is a clear and promising future for hovingham school. It comes down to whether those in charge want it to remain or not.
23	I'm a resident of the village with two pre-school children. We would like to send them to Hovingham Primary if adequate wrap-around care was also in place	I do not know the catchment areas well. I think a better partnership for Hovingham Primary would be with Slingsby rather than St Hilda's Ampleforth	Community	Wrap around care essential I'm partnership with Slingsby Primary School
24	If not enough pupils in or around the area, there is only once choice, close it. It isn't going to be as bad as people think, other schools close due to lack of numbers, with everything that is happening and we are in a recession there is no other choice, sorry		Other	
25	It was with great concern and dismay that I heard about the proposed closure by NYCC of Hovingham C of E School. As I was a teacher there until 2013, I understand how a village school like this is vital to a small community. During my time there it was a thriving school, with dedicated, loyal teachers, supportive, hard-working governors and parents who valued having a local school with high standards, within a Christian ethos, where their children were nurtured and encouraged in all aspects of school life. Financial constraints put pressure on all schools, but Hovingham School successfully adapted to difficulties by confederating with		Teacher	Provide funding for wrap around care

	another local school to share resources and more effectively plan budgets. The school and whole village community of Hovingham have been let down by NYCC, who have not taken timely measures to address the difficulties that this small school faced when numbers began to decline. If they can reconsider this drastic decision to close the school, then the community would be able to keep its heart, and welcome prospective parents who wish to settle there. The alternative is too sad to contemplate.			
26	I am very sad about the closure proposal, my three children went to the school and were very happy there. At the time it was a very happy school at the heart of the local community. Small classes meant the teachers could know the children well and look after their specific needs. Children went on to secondary school confident and ready for their next challenges. Children who went to the school have become all manner of things ranging from doctors and vets to stone masons and gamekeepers. The whole community is shocked about the proposed closure, and there's a feeling that the school was failed by the head teacher and the local authority who did not intervene when pupil numbers were falling. The lack of wrap round care has meant children in the village have had to go to school elsewhere if both parents work.	There are plenty of children living in the catchment area, look at Slingsby which is oversubscribed. A good school will always attract children and Hovingham is very fortunate to have provision of a forest school area loaned them by Hovingham Estate.	Other	
27	I cannot understand why no action was taken as numbers fell and parents removed their children from the school. No action was taken and now we are told that the governors have suggested closure. We have a thriving playgroup in Hovingham with somewhere in the region of 30 local children each week. We tried to work with the school to help with recruitment but the head teacher was not committed to working with us. We have a cohort of children coming through that could feed into the school if we work together to market and engage with our Mums and little ones	Children should attend the local school rather than causing unnecessary traffic and travel in ferrying to schools 6-7 miles away	Community	
28	I am really saddened that the school is threatened with closure. My three children went there and were so happy, being in small classes meant the teachers knew each child well. The school was very much at the heart of the community and had fantastic leadership. Latterly I understand the leadership has been poor, both the teachers and the parents felt ignored by the head. I'm very surprised the numbers dropping didn't result in the education department investigating why that was happening. The school has been failed by the management. I am sure with the right head in	When my children were there children came from a big catchment area. If a school has a good reputation parents will travel to send their children	Other	

	place and wrap around care the school will flourish again. As a church school it seems the local church body let them down as well			
29	Yes I do, I'm angry that the school was allowed to rapidly loose all its children without intervention from NYCC. It was an excellent school when my kids were there and really well supported by the community	Kids have always mainly come from outside the village and will continue to do so if the school has a good reputation	Other	
30	This should be reversed as a matter of urgency. Numbers were allowed to dwindle due to poor leadership. For 160 years Hovingham School has provided education for local children. There is still a great need for a school to continue the education. A thriving playing in Hovingham is proof of potential numbers.	Local children are having to travel. A local school is essential.	Community	
31	I strongly disagree with the closure proposal. All the information I've heard and read points to pupil numbers falling as a result of negligent management and not due to lack of demand and support for our local school		Community	
32	I am responding on behalf of the Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Joint Advisory Committee (JAC). As Hovingham is one of our Howardian Hills AONB communities, the JAC discussed the issue of closure of Hovingham School at our meeting of 21 November 2022. We wish to express our belief in the importance of local schools as key facilities for local communities. Hovingham School has been successful for many years, providing an essential service to the local community and with good, consistent student numbers. Though numbers have dropped in the last 2-3 years, evidence shows that this has not been due to lack of potential students and that there continue to be sufficient primary age children in the catchment who could attend the school if it remains open. Closure would put other local schools under more pressure and result in children having to travel further than necessary to school. Thus, we object to the closure of Hovingham School. Instead, we suggest that the County Council support the local community by providing interim funding to enable the school to be re-started, recruiting a new, competent Head of School and encouraging parents to have confidence in the school's future and to register their children with it.	N/A	Other	
33	I was very disappointed to hear that the Governing Body has reluctantly asked the County Council to consult on closure proposals for Hovingham CE Primary School. The school was built	The number of pupils at surrounding schools and the over capacity of Slingsby School shows there is local	Community	

	<p>in the 1850s and provided by my family for the provision of education. I believe the value of the school is as important now as it was then. The school has been part of the village ever since and I attended myself. Now Hovingham is a growing and vibrant village it needs a thriving school in the heart of the community. We have had a steady stream of families moving into the village in recent years and many have young children that they would like to send to the village school. Indeed, they often relate that they have moved into the village so that they can walk to school. Sadly, the recent problems with leadership have put them off. My hope is that the County Council will work with the supportive community to keep the school open so that future generations can benefit in the same way that my family has done over the years.</p>	<p>need. The plans to grow local villages means that there will be a requirement for more primary education capacity and if Hovingham School closes there will be a lack of places in the area and may require the Council to build a new school in the future. Therefore keeping Hovingham School open and rebuilding it makes economic sense.</p>		
34	<p>Whilst there are no pupils at the school right now, this is an unprecedented situation where there has been a complete failure of leadership within the management. With Ofsted Good and SIAMS Excellent grades, under new leadership there is a real opportunity to make a fresh start and attract a new intake of pupils for this long standing and popular school. Please do not close Hovingham School.</p>	<p>There are sufficient primary school aged children living within catchment to populate Hovingham School as well as other local schools, some of which are over subscribed.</p>	Hovingham Hall Estate	<p>The school is an integral part of the village and has been for many years. Hovingham is a Service Village and Ryedale District Council proposes new housing which will attract families with young children. There is a growing demand for school places in the locality. Hovingham Estate offers enhanced activities for the school including; a nearby wood within walking distance for Forest School/outdoor learning activities, Hall Green for additional playground and sports space, an annual rural education day, the Hall grounds for rounders matches and sports days. The community takes a keen interest in the school. The school is very well supported by the local community. Please keep Hovingham School open for the benefit of local children.</p>
35	<p>As a resident and former pupil, many years ago, I would like to register my opposition to the proposed closure of Hovingham village school. Before any decisions about its future are taken it is important that the mistakes of the past are examined closely so they are not repeated.</p>		Community	

36	<p>I have been a governor of the St Hilda's & Hovingham Federation since mid March 2022 in response to an advert in the local parish magazine. In April 2019, I retired from a career of over 30 years as a lawyer in corporate finance and board level in-house roles in the Energy and Chemicals sectors. I am now a senior Government lawyer. I have also been a governor of two private sector schools in the past. On my arrival, it was very clear that Hovingham was in serious difficulty with numbers dropping and a head-teacher that appeared remote and defensive. I have absolutely no doubt in my mind that the dissatisfaction with the then operational management of Hovingham expressed at the consultation meeting is entirely justified. Sadly, recent NYCC support for the Governor's, though most welcome, has been too little and too late. The school should be provided with the opportunity to return to its integral role in the local community. * there is significant local support for the school. While I am not aware of the number of registrations for September 2023; I am aware of 6 children whose parents would like to join the Reception class in September 2024; * Future housing plans will increase demand * Consistent with the development plan seen by the NYCC, School staff have established very warm links with local playgroups - a ready pipeline of potential pupils * It has the support of the local estate that has facilitated the development of a forest school offer. *With the right leadership, there is little doubt that a successful school can be recreated. It is clear that the current governance model is fundamentally unfit for purpose. It is untenable for the head-teacher to also be a governor - having an operational and a supervisory role. This creates an irreconcilable conflict of interest that the NYCC does not have the experience or resource to manage. Hovingham school is in circumstances entirely NOT of its own making. It should be granted a reprieve.</p>	<p>I should first express my disappointment with the cap on character count in this process. 2000 characters is a wholly inadequate amount to enable the coherent explanation of complex issues directly relevant to the future of the school. Reverting to the question of catchment should Hovingham school be forced to close, Option 2 is the preferred option as it reflects the local geography and affinity of the respective parishes..</p>	Governor	<p>The character count limit imposed is unreasonable and prevents the effective delivery of considered opinion on a complex issue. It calls the adequacy of the entire consultation process relating to the future of the school into question.</p>
37	<p>In response to the consultation on the closure of Hovingham School, I write on behalf of Hovingham Estate, to pledge our support for keeping the school open. I appreciate that there are currently no pupils on roll, but this is an unprecedented situation, where it is clear that there has been a complete failure of leadership. The Governing Body has a real opportunity to make a fresh start under new leadership. The Ofsted Good and SIAMS Outstanding reports can attract a new intake of pupils to re-seed the school.. The Estate has always been very supportive of Hovingham</p>		Hovingham Hall Estate	

	<p>School since it is an integral part of the village. We have variously offered a nearby wood within walking distance for Forest School and outdoor learning activities, the Hall Green for an additional play area and sports field, the cricket pitch in front of the Hall for Sports Days, Rounders matches and events, a Leaver's tour of the hall that could be extended to other occasions. Also, the Estate has teamed up with the charity Countryside Learning to offer an annual rural education day where the pupils can learn about everything from river management to mountain rescue, forestry, food and farming, gardening and wildlife. Ryedale District Council has confirmed that Hovingham retains its status as a Service Village and has indicated a likely housing allocation in its Call for Sites consultation process. This will bring families into the village and there will be an increased demand for the school. It simply does not make sense to close it at this juncture. Please listen to the views from the local population and keep Hovingham School open.</p>			
38	<p>I was very disappointed to hear that the Governing Body has reluctantly asked the County Council to consult on closure proposals for Hovingham CE Primary School. The school was built in the 1850s and provided by my family for the provision of education. I believe the value of the school is as important now as it was then. The school has been part of the village ever since and I attended myself. Now Hovingham is a growing and vibrant village it needs a thriving school in the heart of the community. We have had a steady stream of families moving into the village in recent years and many have young children that they would like to send to the village school. Indeed, they often relate that they have moved into the village so that they can walk to school. Sadly, the recent problems with leadership have put them off. The number of pupils at surrounding schools and the over capacity of Slingsby School shows there is local need. The plans to grow local villages means that there will be a requirement for more primary education capacity and if Hovingham School closes there will be a lack of places in the area and may require the Council to build a new school in the future. Therefore, keeping Hovingham School open and rebuilding it makes economic sense. My hope is that the County Council will work with the supportive community to keep the school open so that future generations can benefit in the same way that my family has done over the years.</p>		Hovingham Hall Estate	

39	<p>The Hovingham School was built over 150 years ago and has been an integral part of the community ever since then. The school and the community joined together to celebrate 150 years, demonstrating the mutual benefits of the excellent school with a vibrant community. The celebrations showed how long and well established that relationship was and how important it was to current and future pupils of the school, providing a solid foundation for their future education and the community. On 1st April 2015, when Hovingham CE Primary and St Hilda's CE Primary Schools became federated it was on the basis that it would enable the schools to work together, helping each other and combining their assets for the benefit of current and future pupils. In the literature circulated at the time it was stated that this would reduce the risk of closure following federation. Looking at the number of pupils at both schools since 2016 Ampleforth has risen from 17 in 2016, reached 35 in 2020 and is now 28. In the same years Hovingham had 38 pupils in 2016, 33 in 2020 and now it is either 16 or 0. This does not appear to follow the objectives of federation, where the pupils, budget and resources of each school would work together to form a stronger partnership. 7 applications for places at Hovingham were received for 2022-23 and none were allocated, according to NYCC statistics. In addition, there were 16 pupils already on role, who have now been transferred to other schools. It appears that a decision to close the school had already been made in March 2022 and contributed to the lower number of pupils for 2022-23. Throughout the "consultation" there has been an assumption the school is already closed and that the consultation was just to formalise that decision. At the public meeting on Wednesday 9th November a large number of residents attended and asked many questions which were not answered either at the meeting or subsequently. Attendance at local schools is obviously dependent both on the number of children of primary school age living in the area and the preferences of parents to select the best school for their children. In addition, families will move into and out of the area however, these should equal themselves out. The number of pupils at 5 local schools averaged 353 since 2016. At Hovingham in 2016 and 2017 there were 18 and 12 applications for places, since 2018 this has reduced to an average 8 per year. The number allocated to Hovingham was 8 and 7 places in 2016 and 2017, since 2018 this</p>		Parish Council	
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<p>has averaged less than 2. In the last year the number of pupils at Hovingham has decreased substantially compared to other schools in the area, due to no applications being allocated and pupils transferring to other schools. According to the Ryedale Plan Hovingham is a “Service Village” where the school is an essential part of the community and important asset when attracting new housing and young families to the area. The Parish Council fully support Hovingham school remaining open and remaining a unique educational asset to the village, Ryedale and North Yorkshire. Please see the table attached at the end of this document. This document is listed below as Item 1.</p>			
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40	<p>I was very disappointed to hear that the Governing Body has reluctantly asked the County Council to consult on closure proposals for Hovingham CE Primary School. The school was built in the 1850s and provided by my family for the provision of education. I believe the value of the school is as important now as it was then.</p> <p>The school has been part of the village ever since and I attended myself. Now Hovingham is a growing and vibrant village it needs a thriving school in the heart of the community. We have had a steady stream of families moving into the village in recent years and many have young children that they would like to send to the village school. Indeed, they often relate that they have moved into the village so that they can walk to school. Sadly, the recent problems with leadership have put them off.</p> <p>The number of pupils at surrounding schools and the over capacity of Slingsby School shows there is local need. The plans to grow local villages means that there will be a requirement for more primary education capacity and if Hovingham School closes there will be a lack of places in the area and may require the Council to build a new school in the future. Therefore, keeping Hovingham School open and rebuilding it makes economic sense.</p> <p>I understand from Kevin Hollinrake MP that Ryedale Learning Trust are interested in taking over the school, which is encouraging. They will, however, need some financial support from the County Council which I hope you will be able to provide. I believe this will be a good investment both to keep the school going and to save a significant cost in the future if a new school was required.</p> <p>My hope is that the County Council will work with the supportive community to keep the school open so that future generations can benefit in the same way that my family has done over the years.</p>		Hovingham Hall Estate	
41	<p>Hovingham School has been at centre of Hovingham Community for over 150 years and all through that time the PCC has been part of the school's story and the school has been a part of the village's story. Being located in the very centre of the village and being prominent and imposing buildings, the school is 'part of the fabric' of the village.</p> <p>The Community, Church and School have always had very close links, with joint projects, events, services and many types of activities over the years. This sadly changed a few years ago with</p>		Hovingham Parochial Church Council	

	<p>a new administration and offers of engagement by the church and community were largely 'decided' by the school administration. It is difficult to understand how a situation as serious as closure can develop. Where were the processes and controls to pick up this deteriorating situation much sooner and remedy it? The alarming news of possible closure of the school has however, seen the Community and Church galvanise in combined actions to ensure the future of our school. As such teams are now encouraging pupils to enrol, and other are rallying support and checking options. Support keeps coming in, among them the Hovingham Playgroup which had built some links to the schools and very much wishes this to continue and develop further. The Community Worship Group of local adults wishes to continue contributing to the religious life of the school and rebuild the cooperation that had always been part of the children's activities. Hovingham and the PCC very much believes in its school. We understand that child enrolments are the criteria on which you base the school re-opening. However, please consider that in the times we live in, a local school safe, personal and relevant with space, fresh air and a community to embrace. It is of great value to the cohesiveness of the village and surrounding area.</p>			
42	<p>Hovingham Voluntary Controlled Church of England School should not and must not close. There are pre-school and primary aged children in the village. These children, their parents, and the residents and rate payers of Hovingham have been let down by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the local Authority • the Governing Body • the Diocesan Board of Education • the leadership <p>The above all need to be held to account for their actions. In order to understand the current situation questions should be asked and answers found as to why and how this was allowed to happen. This was a happy, vibrant school with hard working, dedicated staff in a very supportive community. The lack of support from the above bodies has not been addressed and the children of today and tomorrow are being short changed. The Executive Members of North Yorkshire County Council owe it to the children and parents of Hovingham and its catchment area to</p>	<p>Before taking any decision there need to be a close examination of where the current pre-school and primary school pupils live.</p>	Community	

<p>overturn this proposal from the Governing Body (probably advised by officers of the LEA) and find an innovative and creative solution to re-opening the school.</p> <p>The consultation meeting held on 9th November 2022 allowed questions but gave no real answers other than 'put it in writing'. Every effort must be made to appoint an energetic, enthusiastic and dedicated school leader who will command respect, be fun and be prepared to go the extra mile. Someone who will engage with the families and the community and share their vision to move this, once very successful school, forward and return it to its rightful place in the community. Until a guarantee can be given that such an appointment will be made and the parents are able to meet that person they will lack the confidence to move their children, from a school where they are settled, to the unknown.</p> <p>The local Authority through their monitoring officers and with the help of local head teachers should be able to identify suitable candidates willing to take on this challenge. The right person will have the wholehearted support of the community in Hovingham, the local church community and Hovingham Estate, the latter having allowed the use of their grounds for sporting activities and a wooded area for Forest Schools activities. The village has wonderful resources within a short distance of the school such as the beck, a playground, the village hall, a church and chapel, village greens and a tennis court all available to be used by the school.</p> <p>There is no reason why the pupils of a small school should not have access to a broad and balanced curriculum. There are opportunities for each child to experience a wide range of activities where strengths are recognised and weakness supported by staff and pupils in a safe and inclusive environment.</p> <p>It is symptomatic of the age that the involvement of the Church of England in supporting and promoting primary education has become low key. The foundations of a caring and inclusive society could be strengthened with the guidance and support of the church to their village schools, churches and communities.</p> <p>Both Hovingham Estate and Castle Howard Estate have put forward substantial sites for housing to be included in the Ryedale District Council local Plan. It would therefore be short sighted to close Hovingham School when the nearest school at Slingsby is knowingly oversubscribed and Terrington Church of England</p>			
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	<p>Primary School near its limit. (November 1973 a plan for primary schools recommended building a new school to serve Hovingham as well as pupils from Slingsby, Nunnington (now closed) Terrington and Gilling East (now closed) Schools.)</p> <p>If the school closes North Yorkshire County Council will have to provide transport to a designated school now and in the future. The cost of home to school transport in North Yorkshire is already very high. The increase in the cost of fuel and concern about the carbon foot print in transporting the children from Hovingham and its catchment area to another school needs to be addressed to establish whether in the long term this would be the best use of resources.</p> <p>I can only agree with Sarah Todd, former editor of Yorkshire life magazine when she says in her article published in the Yorkshire Post on Saturday 22nd October 2022, "Sometimes it seems the only way country schools can attract pupils is by jumping through enough red-tape to make a vicar swear and being praised by Ofsted inspectors. But let's face it, ticking boxes of a school inspection doesn't necessarily equal happy kids or a well-rounded education."</p>			
43	<p>I am local and both of my children went to Hovingham school and they both had a fantastic education there. I feel that Hovingham has become a very expensive place to live and I can count around 8 pupils that left the school to go onto private education within the years 20/21/22. This is no fault of the school but merely a sign of the times for the families that live in Hovingham and the surrounding area. Whilst my 2 children were there they did trial a breakfast club but I believe that the numbers were not viable for this to continue. I also know that within the last 2 or 3 years they did advertise again for a person to run the breakfast club but nobody applied. I feel sad that the school might close my Husband went there and also his father. I do not have a bad comment about any of the leadership at the school my children had a fantastic education there starting from 2013 - 2022.</p>		Community	
44	<p>I am purchasing a home in Hovingham, myself and my wife are in our early 30s and planning to have children and we would like to send our children to school locally, a primary school in the village is very important to us</p>		Parent	

45	<p>Myself and my husband are moving to Hovingham, and are wanting to start a family, we would ideally like to send our children to the village school in Hovingham, it would be a huge shame if the school were to close</p>		Parent	
46	<p>As a Federation of two small rural schools in the local area and in a collaboration with a third school, we are saddened to hear about the proposed closure of Hovingham School. We are very committed to village communities retaining their Primary schools as a key asset for supporting children and families by providing high quality education. Hovingham School has declined to the extent that it has no children on roll, and it is hard to see how it can rebuild its numbers, particularly when neighbouring schools have places available. It seems unlikely that many, if any, parents would choose to put their children's names down for a school place when the quality of education will be compromised by the very small number of children and other options are open to them. However, this will be tested out in January. There are financial issues too set out in the consultation document. To remain open Hovingham School would have to be subsidised in the short term until numbers increase and this would come from the overall NYCC Schools budget without attracting pupil funding from central government. Given that there are currently sufficient school places it is questionable whether this is a good use of resources in tough financial times. It will impact negatively on other schools. Given the above, it seems that closure is unfortunately inevitable and the focus going forward, Should be on lessons to learn and developing strategies to ensure that other small rural schools do not suffer the same fate. Rural North Yorkshire needs local schools providing sustainable and good quality education for the young children so their communities can continue to thrive.</p>	<p>If Hovingham School does close, our Federation would prefer option two as regards the catchment area changes, with Scackleton and Coulton becoming a part of the Terrington School catchment area. There are places at Terrington School currently and there are significant links between the two settlements and Terrington. Slingsby School is full at the present time. Whilst not at present part of the same Benefice as regards Church of England organisation this is likely to change in the next few years as the Southern Ryedale Deanery Plan is implemented.</p>	Foston and Terrington Governing Federated Governing Body	
47	<p>Looking at the data, what stands out is that the enrolment numbers were consistent up until 2020. The question this raises is what changed around that time that meant the school did not continue to attract the same level of enrolment? Surrounding schools such as Slingsby have experienced increased enrolments during the same period suggesting that there are children needing school places locally. Understanding what was happening around 2020 would be helpful in informing decisions about keeping the school open and what needs to change to ensure this valued community asset</p>		Community	

	continues to fulfil an important role. Wrap around care is an important factor for parents choosing schools - why can some schools provide this and others not?			
48	<p>The reason the school has failed is as a direct result of the previous headmaster. Teachers, parents and governors all had concerns and these were not properly listened to, and actioned, and hence children, staff and governors had an exceptional turnover. If you look at his previous school in Wykeham you can see that exactly the same happened there before he left. After his departure, the numbers increased again. The same will happen in Hovingham if NYCC appoint a new headmaster along with the appropriate promotion. There is a thriving toddler group in the village on a Wednesday which has only been established in the last year. 80+ families have been through that group in the last 12 months. Despite only open for a year, they get on average 25 attendees a week. A quiet week has around 15 children and a busy week 35. These are an ideal group to put Hovingham school on the map. In addition one week in May it had to run on a Thursday due to a previous booking at the village hall and a completely different set of parents and children came, who are normally at work on a Wednesday. This therefore suggests that a "stay and play" session at school on an alternative day would also be beneficial. The teachers had only just begun building a relationship with the group before this consultation was announced and already you could see cohorts forming and children warming to the teachers and the sessions. Parents were also building trust, which would have made transition across the road to the school very easy. Wrap around care is essential and this is another area where Hovingham failed to meet current needs, another easy fix. Forest school is ever popular with toddler groups and Hovingham is ideally placed along with the support of the estate to provide an excellent provision within walking distance. All of the above suggests the closure is premature and the direct cause for failure has finally been removed so the school should be given the opportunity to flourish.</p>	I believe these to be correct. Using a head from an adjacent catchment area this term seems to be a conflict of interest as the school closing would be her schools gain.	Parent	
49	The school should not be closed. It was run down by the leadership, especially the headteacher and the Local Authority should have noticed parents were taking their children out. Despite the best efforts of the staff the school became isolated from the church, community and parents. Ryedale learning trust have now said they	The catchment area always has provided enough pupils for the school	Community	Allow Ryedale Learning trust to take over the school. At the public meeting on 9th November in Hovingham Village Hall, the LA stated that this was a very unusual case. Giving some transitional

	want to take over both Hovingham and St Hilda's. This must be allowed to happen. It is obvious that the local Authority are culpable in the schools demise and should now take a hard look at that and now support the school so it can flourish again.			funding will not set a precedent for other small schools but it will recognise that failings by leadership led to this situation so the LA need to step up and rectify this and save the school.
50	<p>What has happened in Hovingham in the the space of a very short time is extraordinary, pupil numbers dropping, parental confidence in the school and its reputation plummeting, and low morale among staff. The sudden departure of the head at the end of the summer term finished it for the remaining parents. NYCC describes this as 'unprecedented'. The unfairness of the proposed closure is that there has been no time or opportunity to re-launch the school. Figures show there are children in catchment and nearby schools have high pupil numbers and parents who are willing to enrol their children at these schools even if they have to transport them daily. The temporary executive leadership for this term was hastily arranged without governor opportunity to look at any alternatives or mount a recovery plan and very quickly they were in a situation where there was no alternative but to request NYCC to consult on closure. The Hovingham community knows that in the Ryedale Plan there are ambitions for more housebuilding including affordable housing both in and round Hovingham which will bring demand for local school places. Successful liaisons with a relatively new baby and toddler group have reinforced the view that there will be demand for early years places, but there is a short time lapse until that occurs. The Hovingham Estate values the school at the heart of the community supporting the school's ambitions to provide outdoor learning for children in several unique ways. Hovingham has been, and can be again, a school of first choice for families in this part of Ryedale. This feels like a rush to a financially driven opportunity to close another small school in a rural area. I am strongly against this imminent closure. I am certain governors, at least from 2019, were trying to bring issues around the leadership to the attention of NYCC and when, as I believe they should, NYCC holds an investigation into this, I will be very willing to bring my evidence.</p>	My preference is for proposed Option 2 Hovingham aligns better with the street parishes along the B1257	Governor	
51	The closure of this school will be detrimental to the village as, historically, the school has been a vibrant part of the community. This has taken the form of community cafes, welcoming members		Teacher	

	<p>of the community into school and participating in key events such as Remembrance services in the local church. In addition, providing education locally will enable families to potentially reduce their travel time. This will benefit local people, especially during the current cost of living crisis and reducing car travel time is better for the planet. It is sad that the reason Hovingham School is earmarked for closure is not due to poor teaching or a poor educational experience. Rather, the pupil numbers were allowed to plummet without any effective intervention, including at county level. Concerns about pupil numbers were raised with the county representative based in school as well as school leadership yet nothing was done until it was too late. As a result, families who would have considered Hovingham and the wider village community are being penalised.</p>			
52	<p>I am not in favour of closing Hovingham CE Primary School as it is only in this “unusual situation”, as stated by NYCC representatives, because of failed leadership in the school & in NYCC, accompanied by poor governance. It is stated in section 2.3 of the NYCC consultation document that NYCC knew numbers were in decline from 2017/2018, resulting in zero pupils in September 2022. The exact same trend that the Operational Leader of Hovingham school oversaw at their previous school, Wykeham CE Primary School, where fortunately the school was rescued after the Operational Leader departed. Yet despite this, NYCC did nothing to assist with turning the trend around at Hovingham School, the School Improvement Officer stating it was not within their remit. The document, Opening and Closing Maintained Schools. Statutory Guidance for Proposers and Decision Makers, has a section “The presumption against the closure of rural schools”. I do not believe that NYCC has followed this government guidance in the first instance as nothing has been done by NYCC to assist the school to reverse the trend and to stay viable. I believe NYCC deliberately let the situation of zero pupils develop in order to close this rural school, which is appalling and an insult to the community, with a lack of understanding of the more rural parts of our county. The Ryedale Learning Trust (RLT) has offered an opportunity for the school to remain open and continue to serve its community. A number of housing developments in the Ryedale area are to be realised over the next 5 years, which will bring more families into</p>	<p>If the proposed bigger catchment area for Hovingham & Slingsby benefits Hovingham CE Primary School, then I have no problem with it. However if Hovingham School, and St Hilda's, become part of the Ryedale Learning Trust, then I am not sure how the catchment areas will be applied as part of this Academy.</p>	Community	<p>I think NYCC needs to expand its knowledge of the rural parts of North Yorkshire and the importance of rural schools to the rural communities, especially for Service Villages. There is a clear need for people in the education department to engage with these communities. While a consultation process has been initiated, it feels like you have already made your decision and are just going through the formalities. The situation that Hovingham School has found itself in could have been avoided if NYCC had involved the community in the years leading up to this year. NYCC must review their own failings with regard to Hovingham School, take learnings from this and put in corrective procedures.</p>

	<p>the area. RLT has an excellent track record and I would like to think that NYCC will work with them to give them the support & finance to achieve this. Also, that NYCC examine how they failed Hovingham School, to avoid putting other rural schools through the same unnecessary process, and that they make changes to their procedures to reflect this.</p>			
53	<p>This is an unusual case as this school is a 'good' rated school with 'outstanding' rated SIAMS and should not have been up for closure. This was not a failing school and has the potential to thrive again. The reason this school is in this position is because pupil numbers have been allowed to fall to zero which is very difficult to recover from. Incompetence from the head and a lack of action from the governors acting on information from staff has lead to this proposal. The head does have to take some accountability as many families left due to his lack of leadership. Many families left during a period where key staff were on maternity leave but the head did not monitor supply staff appropriately (amongst other examples of incompetence which were highlighted to governors over a period of 6 years!) meaning they were allowed to divert from school policies. Every time staff approached a Chair of Govs with concerns they consequently resigned (hence the turnover of Chair of Govs in recent years!) NYCC, I feel, also need to take some accountability. All of this information including a head with formal complaints, turnover of chair (4in a couple of years?), approached by one chair and turned away, School Improvement Advisor approached with concerns and refused to act, along with the rapid decline of numbers should have triggered an investigation. How was this head allowed to struggle and fail so badly despite having a strong team who were happy to assist? He should have been supported in his role/encouraged to do the right thing sooner before numbers in the school were allowed to drop below ten never mind zero! He certainly wasn't in a fit state to lead in the last 6 months at least. Staff loved and were dedicated to this school and its families. Long standing staff who have put 13-15 years of their lives into this school now have the livelihoods they loved in jeopardy due to the failings of others. Past pupils are caring/considerate, hardworking and successful individuals.</p>	<p>Historically the school has attracted many pupils from outside of catchment area, travelling longer distances to attend. The school acted as a welcome alternative to larger schools because of its size and the resulting family feel. Parents, staff and pupils all appreciated the family feel of the school meaning excellent relationships were formed. Many parents share that despite looking around all the schools locally this was the choice for them so it clearly offers something that appealed to particular families. Some families shared that their children just learn better in a smaller environment and that they are more confident in smaller peer sizes. Some parents preferred the mix of ages in the classes and so they were happy to send their child/travel to the school to provide their children with this specific approach to education. There are enough families to make this school viable and with the addition of playgroup (which teachers have already formed excellent relationships with), proposed nursery, wrap around care provision and local building plans, this school definitely has a future where numbers could be sustained. There is a dip for numbers</p>	Teacher	<p>Some of this process has been clear and some has been quite difficult. We were provided with very little information at the beginning of this process. Meeting times and dates etc. Also this link for this form could have been sent out to relevant people with a link to the school eg teachers, parents, local community, especially those that contributed during the initial public meeting. Once the process had been started it has been relatively easy to follow although information provided to staff concerned has been very limited, especially the redundancy aspect. Cutting the consultation time also seemed unfair though this has been rectified to a degree. There are still many unanswered questions which has been a regular theme throughout the process such as what needs to be done in order for the decision to close to be overturned? The question of how this particular case was allowed to ever get to this point in the first place also remains unanswered. The school would NOT have been in this position if NYCC had stepped in sooner. Even if there were a handful of children left in the school, it could have recovered when all of the points mentioned in this form were considered. The problem lies with the fact that the school numbers were</p>

		<p>in Sep 23 due to the major ask of parents to place their child in a school with no other pupils. Intake for Sep 24 looks promising and from there, with the elements mentioned above, the school could recover and thrive again. People are still calling to enquire about the school and its reputation can be rebuilt. It has only faltered due to incompetence in leadership. Lots of children left and joined a private school but their parents were always happy with the education provided by Hovingham until becoming unsettled by leadership. Prior to this, despite being able to afford private schooling the parents were happy at Hovingham. We have had families with 3/4 siblings who have been with school since their first child being in reception but they have felt that the need to remove their last child. Given time it can recover.</p>		<p>allowed to drop to zero before NYCC gave it any attention. The school now needs more time to recover but this would have been significantly easier if the school still had pupils. Not many of these questions were answered at the meeting, most people were told to 'put their thoughts down on the form'. Could more answers be provided when asked for?</p>
53	<p><i>Response 53 was a response from the Chief Executive Officer of the Ryedale Learning Trust. This response is included separately as Appendix 5. An abridged version of the same response was also submitted as part of the online survey including the Trust's view on the catchment proposals. This response can be seen below as Response 54</i></p>		Ryedale Learning Trust	
54	<p>Why do we (Ryedale Learning Trust) want to help Hovingham and St Hilda's CE Primaries? -We have wanted to work with Hovingham and St Hilda's from the outset- Hovingham & St Hilda's were part of the working group that led to the establishment of the Ryedale Federation in 2016 -Our Trust is committed to engaging with all interested schools (including CE schools) in the surrounding geographical area. We understand this will require us changing to Mixed Articles, with the support of the Diocese.</p>	<p>Our preference would be Option 2 Proposed option 2: Hovingham parish to become part of the Slingsby CP catchment area. The area currently shared between Hovingham CE and St Hilda's and the parish of Stonegrave to become part of St Hilda's catchment area. Parishes of Coulton and Scackleton to become</p>	Ryedale Learning Trust	

	<p>-We believe wherever possible that small rural schools should be preserved, as they are integral to the communities they serve - Hovingham & St Hilda's CE primaries are within the catchment area for Ryedale School</p> <p>-Hovingham CE School has the pupil numbers in catchment to secure its future, and we believe we can help make Hovingham (and St Hilda's) schools of choice in their local, and wider communities</p> <p>-We have a good track record for improving small schools and ensuring their viability RLT Support from January 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leadership of the schools by our Primary Lead (Executive Headteacher) - Access to and support from the Trust Central Education and Operations teams Proposed Hovingham CP School Offer from September 2023: <p>-Up to 8 reception places , Up to 16 nursery places, Places would also be open to Y1 & 2 pupils from September 2023, Wrap around care and enrichment activities (including Forest Schools), A school community within a community of schools We are currently holding open mornings and advertising the potential provision on offer from September 2023. We have interest for nursery places but not as yet reception places for September 2023. We recognise that without a positive outcome for the school in terms of the consultation, and without appropriate transitional financial support from the LA from April 2023, our actions alone cannot guarantee that Hovingham School will be open in September 2023. We have relayed this message to all stakeholders.</p>	part of the catchment area for Terrington CE School.		
55	<p>Hovingham school has the potential to be a popular and successful school as it was before the last headteacher came into post. It would be a travesty not to give the school, the community and the remaining staff the chance to rebuild the school community given that the reason the school is in the position it is is down to the inadequacy of the headteacher, the failings of NYCC in providing appropriate support and intervention when issues were raised with them. The school was let down by two School Improvement Advisors, I can provide first hand evidence of this. The school has a good number of children in catchment and many great assets including excellent early years staff, good teaching spaces, excellent community and Estate support, and access to a very good forest school area. Services such as schools provide critical</p>		Parent	

	services in rural areas and it is important to support and maintain them. The interest from the Ryedale Learning Trust is very exciting and provides a real opportunity to develop excellent school provision in Hovingham with shared expertise, resources and enthusiasm.			
56	Yes, it is a real shame that a lovely local rural school should close. It is so important that children don't travel too far for school and it's great to have it in the community.		Community	
57	Hovingham school is at the heart of the community. The decision to close without prior appropriate consultation with the community and the Estate is abhorrent. There is an active playgroup which attracts c30 children each week and could be a perfect catchment and feeder into the school; despite numerous requests and suggestions for this to be looked at by the previous Headmaster no action was taken. How can the closure proposal be a credible and viable suggestion when no changes have been actioned to make the school appealing to parents and offer a long term strategy to enable survival? In addition, with the Estate's long term vision of growth for the community with the ambition of attracting more families, is a school not a fundamental requirement for the village? How very shortsighted. Shame on anyone that thinks this is a fair and just next step.		Parent	
58	The closure would have an impact on the wellbeing of young people and the sense of community that local schooling enables.		Parent	You need to ask for solutions
59	I'm against the proposed closure. I don't understand how the council has stood by and not stepped in when numbers were critically dwindling. I don't understand how an acting head who stands to gain from the school's closure could have been appointed. Closing this school leads to others becoming over-subscribed. Those schools are then also at risk of closure with the argument of creating a large capacity primary, which will ruin the community spirit, quality of life and education of so many. People choose to live in rural areas and send their children to small rural schools for the community that they are part of.		Parent	The timescales shifted several times. It appears this is a foregone conclusion and the council have made no effort to save the school.
60	Questions and Findings arising from consultation on the proposed closure of Hovingham School.		Hovingham School Action Group	

<p>Governance (Board of Governors and Local Authority) & Educational Leadership</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There are clear indications that the head teachers community engagement, performance and reputation were questioned resulting in children being withdrawn from the school, the school not being selected by parents and general staff dissatisfaction. As a local authority and board of governors you must have been aware of this, what steps did you take to address the situation and was the local authority aware of the head teachers previous questionable performance? 2. The local authority and board of governors must have been aware of the drop off in numbers relative to the projections, what steps were taken to investigate, validate and address the causes? 3. What action was taken by the local authorities to investigate and address the high turnover of school governors, particularly the chairpersons? 4. Were the board of governors provided the appropriate support to manage and address the emerging issues? 5. What can we learn about what needs to be done to address and prevent such issues reoccurring? <p>Examples of poor leadership & governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Original references not validated and prior poor performance with falling pupil numbers not discovered, after head teacher left this school numbers improved again. • Poor engagement and follow up with parental concerns • After 2017's successful Ofstead report lack of engagement with school and staff, focus on St Hilda's and "travel between" • Improvement plans failed to gain traction or were simply blocked • Focus on administration and not wider leadership • Repeated refusal of extracurricular activities offered and suggested • Reported concerns on several occasions as well as to external advisers and in surveys over last 5-6 years not 			
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	<p>acted upon or even followed up, no improvements/change experienced just gradual deterioration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School became isolated, staff and governors felt isolated • No training or support of governors • Attempted sale of school property and refusal of donations • Employment of friends to provide services, contracts cancelled by new head. • Not investigating and addressing reported bullying, blaming staff instead. • Procurement of a curriculum that was questioned by staff and not used • Failure to run open day and recruitment events proposed by staff and other organisations • Governors act to close school without parental and community engagement. • Failure to investigate, publicly recognise and address cause of pupil with draws and fall of numbers. • New head responsible for three other schools, some competing, obviously lacked time focus and probably conviction to turn it around. <p>Questions for NYCC</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Given the “unusual circumstances” you recognised, please can the consultation process be suspended, and finance found to enable the governors supportive of continuation, supported by the action group, head teacher and staff to re-seed the school from next school year? 2. Is a series of educational leadership and breakdowns in governance a valid reason to shut down a school? 3. Does NYCC value village schools and if so, what does it value? 4. If the numbers had not dropped to the position they are now, would the council have been looking to close Hovingham School or for that matter, any other schools? 5. The consultation report states, “the main factor prompting the request is there are currently no pupils on roll at Hovingham”. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. If that is the main factor, has enough been done to resolve the decline in numbers? b. Why are there no options to keep the school open? 			
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	<p>6. The consultation report and presentation failed to address the “highly unusual” drop of in pupils at the school and the presentation panel was unable to postulate the cause.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What was the cause of the drop of in pupils and was this ever investigated? b. Was this occurrence, a failure of educational leadership and governance (of the school and local authority), deemed an opportunity to easily close some school capacity? c. Has the timeframe of the consultation been shortened to facilitate this and the redundancy of staff in the current financial year? d. With all schools open and performing well how would the council address closure? e. What do the council and governors make of the graph which shows the comparison between Wykeham and Hovingham numbers of pupils when the head was in control? f. When the council notice pupil numbers dropping at a school, what is the protocol? Was this followed? If not, why not? <p>7. Given that the governors commissioned two staff well-being surveys April 2021 and November 2021:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What did the council do when the results showed issues? b. How did the council fulfil their duty of care for the wellbeing of staff when these results were seen? c. Is it possible that staff feel failed by their management and may now bring constructive dismissal claims? <p>8. The local authority is seeking sites for residential development. How will the local authority provision for growth in demand with existing local schools and their respective locations? Were these included in forecasts?</p> <p>9. At the consultative meeting it was stated 40 children of primary school age currently live in the catchment area of Hovingham, what is the forecast of these numbers in the future?</p> <p>10. Is there a programme / policy that looks to reduce the number of schools?</p>			
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	<p>a. If no, then surely it would be sensible to actively try to resolve the decline in numbers before leaping into a proposal to close?</p> <p>b. If yes, where is that policy available to the community?</p> <p>11. Of course, finance is a key concern. Noting the statement within the consultation document, what options would NYCC have regarding financing the school in the interim period whilst it addresses the issues that led to the numbers falling and a return to delivering education?</p> <p>12. Can you be creative in your response to this consultation? The heart of the school is still there. The staff are outstanding, the quality of education is exemplary, it's a beautiful building with a supportive community and organisational partners. Surely we can be more creative and do more to share skills and educational experiences without losing schools?</p> <p>13. Wraparound care is highly requested, takes time to put in place and to get actual take up. What alternative funding and support can be accessed using and leveraging schools?</p> <p>14. Appreciating you can't simply compute transport costs; please can you provide forecasts of transport costs for the two closure cases?</p> <p>15. Surely its better to invest funds into education and not transport?</p> <p>16. At the public consultative meeting the panel indicated a target of 27 pupils to enable the school to be viable. What criteria have they based the 27-pupil target on? If it is on the spending model that the school was on then that is misleading as, when I was there, I felt strongly that there were many inefficiencies.</p> <p>Missed Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why were baby and toddler group not able to combine sessions with the outdoor play are at Hovingham school? • Numerous attempts of the previous Slingsby head teacher to collaborate with Hovingham school were rebuffed • Hovingham Estate are very supportive of the school and offered the Hall, Countryside learning day amongst other offers that were largely not taken up 			
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can it have been an open secret within the community that the head was not performing, and this was the reason people were not bringing their children to Hovingham yet the council and governors did nothing about it? • Why, once he has resigned, was this not seen as an opportunity to relaunch the schools? • Why were Hovingham school staff withdrawn from cluster events? 			
61	<p>Last month, the council has announced a consultation to close Hovingham Primary School.</p> <p>I believe the report presented to Cllrs by email does not recognise some of the underlying reasons for the drop in numbers to 0. After the community meeting last week, there were clear indications that the whole storey has not been addressed.</p> <p>There indications are that the previous head teachers community engagement, performance and reputation were questioned by many, at many times, resulting in reputational damage to the school leading to children being withdrawn from the school, and thus not it being selected by parents of children about to enter the system.</p> <p>The local authority must have been aware of the drop off in numbers relative to the projections.</p> <p>There was a strong feeling within the community that there has been a series of problems including a failure to investigate, publicly recognise and address cause of pupil withdrawals and fall of numbers.</p> <p>A number of issues were reported at the meeting and subsequently by email to me as the representative in the area:</p> <p>For example</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not investigating and addressing reported bullying, blaming staff instead. • Poor engagement and follow up with parental concerns • Improvement plans failed to gain traction or were simply blocked • Repeated refusal of extracurricular activities offered and suggested • Reported concerns on several occasions as well as to external advisers and in surveys over last 5-6 years not acted upon or even followed up • No improvements/change experienced just gradual deterioration. 		Cllr. Steve Mason	

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• School became isolated, staff and governors felt isolated• No training or support of governors• Attempted sale of school property and refusal of donations• Employment of friends to provide services, contracts cancelled by new head.• Not investigating and addressing reported bullying, blaming staff instead.• The external and costly procurement of a curriculum that was rightly challenged by the staff and eventually shown to not be fit for purpose.• Failure to run open day and recruitment events proposed by staff and other organisations• Lack of parental and community engagement. <p>As you can see, this has raised many questions that I would like answering.</p> <p>What action was taken by the local authorities to investigate and address the high turnover of school governors, particularly the chairpersons?</p> <p>Were the board of governors provided the appropriate support to manage and address the emerging issues?</p> <p>I suspect this or similar circumstances has happened before, What can we learn about what needs to be done to address and prevent such issues reoccurring?</p> <p>What steps were taken to investigate, validate and address the causes of such a trend in pupil loss, particularly when there are many preschool children in the area?</p>			
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Item 1:

See response 39 above.

Primary School roles, applications and allocations 2016 to 2023

AMOTHERBY	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Average
No. on role	169	167	159	159*	198	188	184	175
Applications	34	31	37	37	47	42	48	39
Allocated	21	19	25	25	31	22	29	25

AMPLEFORTH	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Average
No. on role	17	19	28	28*	35	33	28	27
Applications	6	10	12	12	9	10	8	9
Allocated	3	4	7	7	5	4	5	5

HOVINGHAM	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Average
No. on role	38	32	38	38*	33	30	16	32
Applications	18	23	8	8	9	7	7	10
Allocated	8	7	2	2	4	2	0	3

SLINGSBY	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Average
No. on role	58	67	76	76*	93	88	95	79
Applications	21	20	34	34	33	22	23	27
Allocated	10	7	17	16	16	11	11	13

TERRINGTON	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Average
No. on role	46	42	43	43*	45	36	28	40
Applications	5	6	7	7	12	12	9	8
Allocated	1	4	4	4	9	6	6	5

ALL SCHOOLS	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Average
No. on role	328	327	344	344*	404	375	351	353
Applications	83	79	98	98	110	93	95	94
Allocated	43	41	55	54	65	44	51	50

FEDERATION	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Average
No. on role	55	51	66	66*	68	63	44	59
Applications	23	22	20	20	18	17	15	19
Allocated	11	11	9	9	9	5	5	8

Sources - NYCC website for primary school statistics

2016-17	https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/info/statistical-information-scarborough-and-ryedale-area-2016-17-primary-schools
2017-18	https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/info/statistical-information-scarborough-and-ryedale-area-2017-18-primary-schools
2018-19	https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/info/statistical-information-scarborough-and-ryedale-area-2018-19
2019-20	https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/info/primary-school-statistical-information-scarborough-and-ryedale-area-2019-2020
2020-21	https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/info/2020-21-complete-scarborough-area-primary-data
2021-22	https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/info/primary-school-admissions-statistics-entry-2021-2022-and-school-contact-details
2022-23	https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/info/primary-school-statistical-information-and-contact-details-2022-23
Published Admin	https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/info/appendix-4-determined-primary-admission-numbers-2023-2024

Please note *: The NYCC figures for 2019-20 appear a copy of 2018-19 data

APPENDIX 5 Ryedale Learning Trust response to consultation

Response to Consultation

Why do we (Ryedale Learning Trust) want to help Hovingham and St Hilda's CE Primaries?

- We have wanted to work with Hovingham and St Hilda's from the outset- Hovingham & St Hilda's were part of the working group that led to the establishment of the Ryedale Federation in 2016
- Our Trust is committed to engaging with all interested schools (including CE schools) in the surrounding geographical area. We understand this will require us changing to Mixed Articles, with the support of the Diocese.
- We believe wherever possible that small rural schools should be preserved, as they are integral to the communities they serve
- Hovingham & St Hilda's CE primaries are within the catchment area for Ryedale School
- Hovingham CE School has the pupil numbers in catchment to secure its future, and we believe we can help make Hovingham (and St Hilda's) schools of choice in their local, and wider communities
- We have a good track record for improving small schools and ensuring their viability

RLT Vision and Values

Vision

Every learner in our Trust is inspired to succeed and enabled to fulfil their potential

Our Trust is committed to:

Promoting health, happiness and wellbeing

Providing a safe, disciplined and supportive environment

Developing a love of learning through a passionate and committed approach

Having high standards and expectations

Adopting a proactive and 'can do' attitude

Fostering Integrity, kindness and good manners

Collaborative working to secure excellence

Engendering respect for individuality and difference

School Improvement Capacity

Central Education Team

Early Years Lead

Primary Education Lead

Secondary Education Lead

Raising Achievement Lead

Safeguarding and Inclusion Lead

QA & Standards Lead

Central Operations Team

Chief Finance Officer

Chief Operations Officer

HR Manager

Estates and Facilities Manager

IT Manager

Governance Manager

Staff Development Lead

RLT Support from January 2023

As Associate Members of the Ryedale Learning Trust, Hovingham and St Hilda's will benefit from:

- Leadership of the schools by our Primary Lead (Executive Headteacher)
- Access to and support from the Trust Central Education and Operations teams
- Support from an experienced CE Headteacher (and continued support from the Diocese)

We will ensure that St Hilda's receives the necessary support to continue to enhance its educational provision and to secure its numbers moving forward, whilst working with the local community, NYCC and the Diocese to secure Hovingham CE School's future

Proposed Hovingham CP School Offer from September 2023

From September 2023, we can provide high quality EYFS and KS1 provision, with:

- Up to 8 reception places
- Up to 16 nursery places
- Places would also be open to Y1 & 2 pupils from September 2023
- Wrap around care and enrichment activities (including Forest Schools)
- A school community within a community of schools

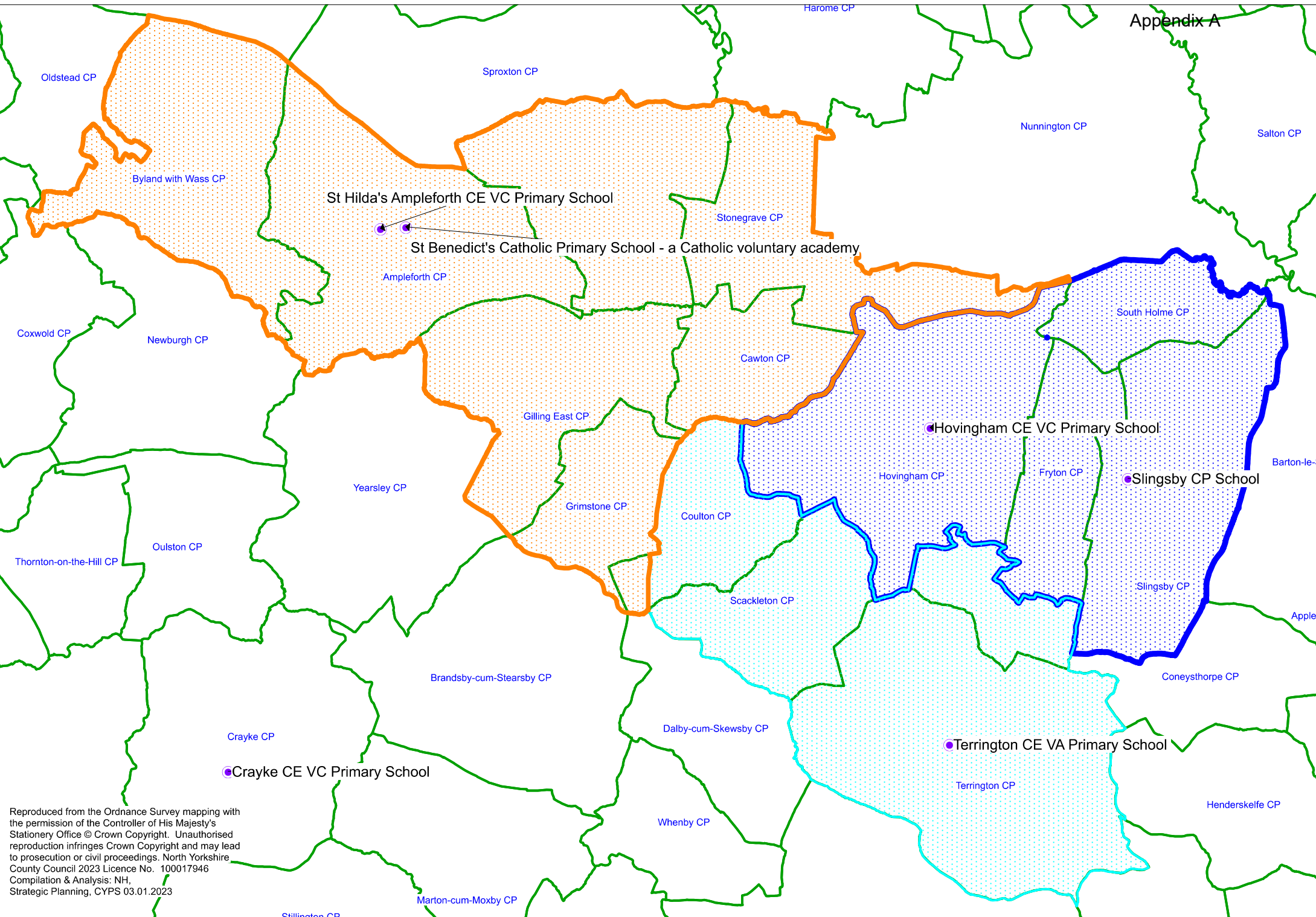
We are currently holding open mornings and advertising the potential provision on offer from September 2023. We have interest for nursery places but not as yet reception places for September 2023.

We have the staffing and leadership experience, and capacity within our schools and Trust, to deliver this offer.

Hovingham CE School's future.....

We recognise that without a positive outcome for the school in terms of the consultation, and without appropriate transitional financial support from the LA from April 2023, our actions alone cannot guarantee that Hovingham CE School will be open in September 2023. We have relayed this message to all stakeholders.

If we are unable to secure the future of Hovingham CE School, Ryedale Learning Trust will still be fully committed to supporting St Hilda's CE School and bringing them into the Trust along with other local CE Primary schools, with the support of the Diocese.



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