

**North Yorkshire Council  
Skipton and Ripon Area Constituency Committee  
7 March 2024**

**Schools, educational achievement and finance**

**1.0 Purpose of the Report**

1.1 To inform Members of the local educational landscape, educational achievement and the financial challenges which affect schools in the Skipton & Ripon constituency committee area.

**2.0 Local educational landscape**

2.1 There are now 19 primary academies and 5 secondary academies within the Skipton and Ripon constituency area. The academy conversion rate for primary schools is slightly lower within the constituency area when compared to the county as a whole (30.6% compared to 39.1% in North Yorkshire.) The academy conversion rate for secondary schools is also slightly lower (56.6% compared to 67.4% in North Yorkshire).

**Summary of schools' status – 1 February 2024**

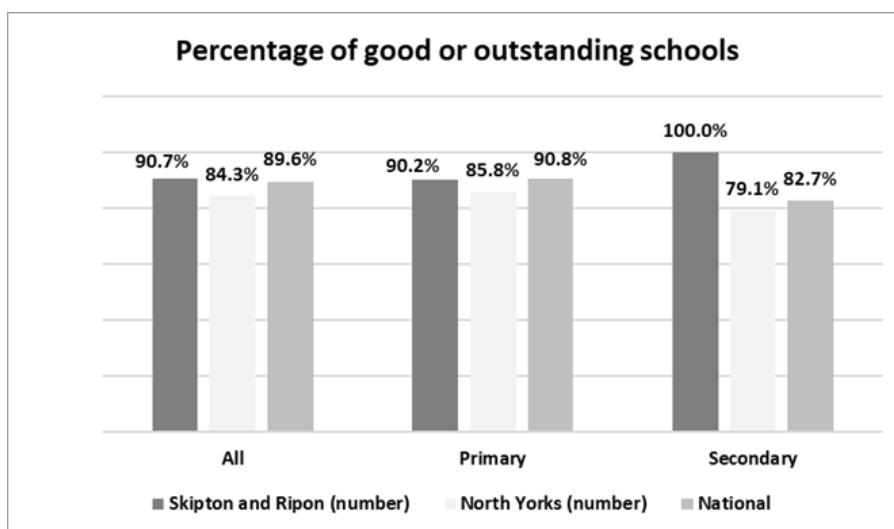
	Schools in North Yorkshire		Schools in Skipton and Ripon ACC	
Primary Maintained	181	60.9%	43	69.4%
Primary Academy & Free School	116	39.1%	19	30.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>297</b>		<b>62</b>	
Secondary Maintained	14	32.6%	4	44.4%
Secondary Academy	29	67.4%	5	56.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>		<b>9</b>	
Special Maintained	6	60%	1	50%
Special Academy	4	40%	1	50%
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>		<b>2</b>	
PRU Maintained	4	80%	1	100%
PRU Academy	1	20%	0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>		<b>1</b>	
<b>Total maintained</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>57.7%</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>66.2%</b>
<b>Total Academy</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>42.3%</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>33.8%</b>
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>355</b>		<b>74</b>	

**3.0 School standards**

**3.1 School Ofsted judgements**

In the constituency area, as at January 2024, 90.2% of primary schools were judged 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted, which is above the North Yorkshire picture but a similar proportion nationally. In terms of secondary schools, 100% were judged 'Good' or 'Outstanding', much higher than the North Yorkshire and national averages. Overall, there are 6 schools judged 'requires improvement' or 'inadequate' in the constituency area.

At the time of writing, 6 of the 10 North Yorkshire Maintained Special Schools were recorded as either 'Good' or 'Outstanding' and all of the 5 Alternative Provision schools (AP) were recorded as 'Good'. At the time of the most recent published Ofsted inspections in the area, Brooklands Special School was graded as 'Good' and Forest Moor Special School was graded as 'Inadequate'. Craven Pupil Referral Service was graded as 'Good' at its most recent published inspection.



In 2023, 93% (25 of 27) of the Childcare establishments (childcare in non-domestic premises) which have had an Ofsted inspection in the constituency were 'Good' or 'Outstanding'. The rate in North Yorkshire was 94% at the same time.

### 3.3 Attainment overall

For two years, exams and assessments in schools did not take place because of the disruption to students' education caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. In 2020 GCSEs, AS and A level exams faced widespread cancellation and were replaced with a grading process involving teacher/ centre assessment. Similarly, summer 2021 assessments were awarded based on teacher or centre assessment and no statistical adjustment processes were used. Overall, final grades were significantly higher in both 2020 and 2021 than in 2019.

The Government allowed GCSEs, AS and A Level and equivalent assessments and exams to go ahead in England in summer 2022, and has made some changes to general, vocational and technical qualifications (VTQs). Additionally, school-level performance (league) tables were re-introduced for the end of the GCSE phase (key stage 4) in 2022; school-level information for secondary phase was not published during either 2020 or 2021.

It is important to emphasise that direct comparisons with outcomes from previous years need to be made with the pandemic in mind, as pupils will have had disrupted

learning during this period. Apart from this factor, there have also been several changes to exams and grading. As such, the DfE have recommended that caution is exercised when making comparisons with previous years.

In primary schools, performance across North Yorkshire at Early Years (Early Years Foundation Stage Profile) has continued to be above national benchmarks and is beginning to approach attainment seen before the pandemic. Attainment of children at Key Stage 2 however is down slightly on previous years, it is clear that national attainment is yet to recover from the impact of the pandemic.

Initial data is now available for Key Stage 4, giving us an overview of attainment of pupils leaving Year 11 in 2023. Attainment across the country at this Key Stage has fallen compared to last year. In North Yorkshire, attainment appears to have returned to pre-pandemic levels and is now very similar to National attainment levels.

### 3.4 Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP)

In 2023, 70.9% of children in the constituency area achieved a Good Level of Development. An in-year comparison of EYFSP outcomes with LA and national figures (see table below) shows that a lower proportion of pupils within the constituency area achieve a good level of development compared with all NYC pupils and those nationally.

<b>Early Years Foundation Stage Profile – percentage achieving a good level of development</b>			
	<b>Skipton and Ripon</b>	<b>North Yorks</b>	<b>National</b>
<b>2018</b>	72.70%	72.50%	71.60%
<b>2019</b>	74.50%	72.80%	71.80%
<b>2022</b>	68.00%	68.30%	65.20%
<b>2023</b>	70.90%	79.30%	67.20%

### 3.5 Key Stage 2

In 2023, 59.2% of children in the constituency area achieved the expected level or above in reading, writing and maths combined, which is slightly higher than the North Yorkshire and the same as the national average. An in-year comparison of KS2 attainment with LA and national figures is shown in the table below.

<b>Key Stage 2 - percentage achieving the expected standard or above in reading, writing and maths combined.</b>			
	<b>Skipton and Ripon</b>	<b>North Yorkshire</b>	<b>National</b>
<b>2018</b>	64.50%	62.10%	64.40%
<b>2019</b>	64.10%	63.40%	64.90%

<b>2022</b>	60.30%	56.60%	58.70%
<b>2023</b>	59.20%	56.10%	59.60%

### 3.6 Key Stage 4

Although Key Stage 4 data has been published by the DfE it has not yet been validated at individual school level. Therefore, all data in this section of the report should be considered provisional.

The average Attainment 8 score, which measures the achievement of a pupil across eight qualifications, was 50.0 for 2023. This is above the North Yorkshire and national averages. Attainment 8 scores at Key Stage 4 have fallen nationally to 46.2 (from 48.8 in the 2021/22 academic year). We have seen a similar picture in North Yorkshire, with Attainment 8 scores falling to 46.7 (from 50.3).

<b>KS4 – Average Attainment 8 score</b>			
	<b>Skipton and Ripon</b>	<b>North Yorkshire</b>	<b>National</b>
<b>2018</b>	52.7	48.5	48.5
<b>2019</b>	54.2	48.7	48.7
<b>2022</b>	52.9	50.3	48.8
<b>2023</b>	50.0	46.7	46.2

The Progress 8 score, which measures a pupil's progress from the end of primary school to the end of secondary school, was higher than the national average and the North Yorkshire average in 2023. A comparison of the Progress 8 scores for schools within the Skipton and Ripon constituency area against county-wide and national figures is shown below.

<b>KS4 – Average Progress 8 score</b>			
	<b>Skipton and Ripon</b>	<b>North Yorkshire</b>	<b>National</b>
<b>2018</b>	0.32	0.13	-0.02
<b>2019</b>	0.33	0.10	-0.03
<b>2022</b>	0.11	0.03	-0.03
<b>2023</b>	0.14	0.01	-0.03

The percentage achieving a grade 5 or above (grading is 9-1) in English and Maths (Basics measure) was 50.9% for 2023. This is above both the national and the North Yorkshire average in 2023.

<b>KS4 – Percentage achieving a grade 5 or above in English and Maths</b>			
	<b>Skipton and Ripon</b>	<b>North Yorkshire</b>	<b>National</b>
<b>2018</b>	56.9%	48.0%	43.3%
<b>2019</b>	58.5%	47.4%	43.2%
<b>2022</b>	59.7%	53.8%	49.8%
<b>2023</b>	50.9%	45.7%	45.0%

### 3.7 Not in education, employment or training

There were 873 young people recorded in Year 11 living in this constituency in May 2023 and of this cohort only 8 (0.9%) were not in education, employment or training after leaving school as at January 2024.

## 4.0 Suspension Incidents and Permanent Exclusions

### 4.1 Suspension Incidents

In the 2022/23 academic year, there have been a total of 7639 suspensions for a total of 2753 individual children in North Yorkshire. 367 of these children were on roll of mainstream schools in the Skipton and Ripon constituency area.

In 2021/22, there were 5197 Suspensions for a total of 2046 individual children, 297 of these children were on roll of mainstream schools in the Skipton and Ripon constituency area.

<b>Suspension Incidents</b>						
	<b>Pupils suspended</b>		<b>Total Suspensions</b>			
<b>Academic year</b>	<b>North Yorkshire</b>	<b>Skipton and Ripon (mainstream)</b>	<b>North Yorkshire</b>	<b>Skipton and Ripon (mainstream)</b>	<b>Percentage of North Yorkshire total (incidents)</b>	<b>Most common reason (Skipton and Ripon)</b>
<b>2018/19</b>	2149	215	5970	501	9.50%	Persistent disruptive behaviour (50.4%)
<b>2019/20</b>	1578	191	4365	620	15.60%	Persistent or general disruptive behaviour (52.9%)

<b>2020/21</b>	1578	206	3553	563	15.70%	Persistent or general disruptive behaviour (29.8%)
<b>2021/22</b>	2046	297	5197	676	13.40%	Persistent or general disruptive behaviour (47.1%)
<b>2022/23</b>	2753	367	7639	843	11%	Persistent disruptive behaviour (42.0%)

In 2022/23, schools in the constituency area had a 17.3% share of the total school population in North Yorkshire and had a 11% share of suspensions for the whole county.

#### 4.2 Permanent exclusions

In 2022/23, there were 96 permanent exclusions from all schools in the county, 10 of which were for children in Skipton and Ripon mainstream schools. In the same period of 2021/22, there were 55 permanent exclusions, 7 of which were from the Skipton and Ripon area.

<b>Academic year</b>	<b>Skipton and Ripon</b>	<b>North Yorkshire</b>	<b>Percentage of North Yorkshire total</b>
<b>2018/19</b>	7	87	8%
<b>2019/20</b>	6	51	11.76%
<b>2020/21</b>	6	26	23.08%
<b>2021/22</b>	7	55	12.73%
<b>2022/23</b>	10	96	10%

#### 4.3 Responding to increasing exclusion from schools

From September 2020 a preventative model of alternative provision was commissioned to enhance support for schools in avoiding permanent exclusions and the model is continuing to be refined.

The Inclusion service is continuing to ensure that permanently excluded pupils are receiving the support they need to return to school, and the curriculum offered at alternative provision is improving as part of a mainstream school model.

Training is continuing to be offered to schools for pupils with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs, as part of a commitment to support schools in adopting more inclusive practices.

Two support pathways have also been introduced to reduce and prevent exclusions from schools. The Pupil Support Pathway is used to identify risks of multiple or permanent exclusion and professionals are becoming involve earlier to address difficulties. The School Support Pathway has been implemented to support and challenge schools which are identified as having the highest exclusion rates in the county.

The SEND and Alternative Provision Improvement Plan was published by the government in 2023. The plan was presented as a roadmap for improving inclusion in mainstream schools within a national system, but it also acknowledged the role of Alternative Provision (AP) as an intervention rather than a destination for children excluded from mainstream. It also identified preventative approaches similar to the North Yorkshire approach. We can expect the plan to be rolled out as part of a national system in the coming years.

## **5.0 Special Education Needs and Disabilities**

### **5.1 SEN Statistics for Constituency Area**

735 in constituency children with a North Yorkshire funded EHC plan (January 2024) 15.3% of the North Yorkshire total. The most common needs are:

- Autism (40%)
- Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH, 19%)
- Moderate Learning Disabilities (MLD, 12%)

1642 in constituency children with SEN Support in North Yorkshire schools, 2023 School Census (January) 13.5% of the North Yorkshire total. The most common needs are:

- Specific Learning Difficulties (e.g., Dyslexia), 23%
- Speech, Language and Communication (SLCN, 18%)
- Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH, 18%)

### **5.2 Increasing demand for Education, Health and Care plans (EHC plans)**

The continuing rise in new EHC plans being issued by North Yorkshire Council is a consequence of an increasing demand for assessments seen during previous years, a trend which reflects the national picture.

2023 saw the highest number of requests for assessment for an EHC plan since EHC plans were introduced. A total of 1275 requests were received by North Yorkshire Council in 2023, this is a circa 30% increase on the total received in 2022. 200 (15.8%) were for children or young people living in the constituency in 2023, a circa. 40% increase on the 143 in 2022.

At the time of writing, there were circa 600 requests either awaiting a decision to assess, a decision to issue an EHC plan or awaiting the finalising of a plan. At the same point last year, there were circa 300 in process. This rise in requests in process is at least partly due to the difficulty in gathering required information for decisions on EHC plan assessments, owing to an acute national shortage of Educational Psychologists (EPs) available.

North Yorkshire Council's approach to the challenge has involved the contracting of agencies in addressing a backlog in receiving advice from Educational Psychologist services. There has also been a successful recruitment drive in 2024 with the appointment of a new principal EP and several part-time and trainee EPs. This is expected to have a consequent effect of an upturn in overall timeliness in final plans being issued towards through the year.

### 5.3 SEND provision

Providing appropriate provision to children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) has become an area of increasing pressure on resources in local authorities throughout the country. The government has acknowledged these delivery pressures and released the SEND and Alternative Provision Improvement Plan in 2023 to address this and a Delivering Better Value (DBV) programme was announced as part of a best practice approach to sustainable provision for children with high needs.

North Yorkshire has participated in the DBV programme as part of a wider inclusion plan which aims to bring positive change for SEND services. The aim of the programme is to identify changes that will make the biggest difference in getting better outcomes and to help council's use their resources in the most efficient way. Progress against these aims will continue to be monitored.

### 6.0 Elective Home Education

As of the beginning of the 2023/24 academic year there were 817 children recorded as Electively Home Educated (EHE) in North Yorkshire, 95 of which were formerly from a mainstream school in Skipton and Ripon ACC. At the same point last year, there were 813 children EHE in North Yorkshire, 83 formerly from a mainstream school in Skipton and Ripon constituency area. This represents a 14% increase in Skipton and Ripon.

In the 2022/23 academic year, 482 children became EHE in North Yorkshire, 50 of which were formerly educated in a mainstream school in the Skipton and Ripon constituency area. This figure in the previous academic year (2020/21) was 38 from Skipton and Ripon out of 452 becoming EHE in North Yorkshire.

### 7.0 School Finance

#### 7.1 2022/2023 School Revenue Balances

Local Authority maintained school revenue balances as at 31 March 2023 are summarised below, together with a comparison with 2022. The balances are also expressed as a percentage of school delegated budgets.

	<b>Primary &amp; Nursery</b>	<b>Secondary</b>	<b>Special</b>	<b>Pupil Referral Unit</b>	<b>Total</b>
	170 schools	15 schools	6 schools	4 schools	195 schools



Total School Revenue Balances (Net) as at 31 March 2023	£15,054k	-£973k	-£887k	£753k	<b>£13,947k</b>
% Of Revenue Budget	12.4%	-1.7%	-5.6%	31.4%	<b>7.1%</b>
No. Schools with an Accumulated Revenue Budget Surplus as at 31 March 2023	149	10	2	3	<b>164</b>
No. Schools with an Accumulated Revenue Budget Deficit as at 31 March 2023	21	5	4	1	<b>31</b>
<i>Comparison to total school revenue balance (net) as at 31 March 2022</i>	<i>-£1,368k</i>	<i>-£770k</i>	<i>-£75k</i>	<i>-£68k</i>	<i><b>-£2,281k</b></i>

(The number of school budgets submitted to the local authority for 2022/23 is lower than the total number of local authority maintained schools operating within North Yorkshire due to several school federations operating a single, amalgamated budget covering all of the schools within the federation)

31 schools (16% of LA Maintained schools) had an accumulated revenue budget deficit totalling £6.6M as at 31 March 2023. An analysis of the budget deficits by school phase is detailed in the table below:

	<b>Primary &amp; Nursery</b>	<b>Secondary</b>	<b>Special</b>	<b>Pupil Referral Unit</b>	<b>Total</b>
No. Schools with an Accumulated Revenue Budget Deficit as at 31 March 2023	21	5	4	1	<b>31</b>
Total School Revenue Deficit Balances as at 31 March 2023	-£1,078k	-£3,363k	-£2,027k	-£95k	<b>-£6,563k</b>
Average Value of Accumulated Revenue Budget Deficit as at 31 March 2023	-£51k	-£673k	-£507k	-£95k	<b>-£212k</b>
Highest Accumulated Revenue Budget Deficit as at 31 March 2023	-£216k	-£998k	-£1,587k	-£95k	<b>-£1,587k</b>
Lowest Accumulated Revenue Budget Deficit as at 31 March 2023	-£1.3k	-£141k	-£18k	-£95k	<b>-£1.3k</b>

## 7.2 School Budget Projections - Based on 2023/24 Revised budgets

The 2023/24 Revised Budgets submitted to the local authority by schools in December 2023 are summarised below:

	<b>Primary &amp; Nursery</b>	<b>Secondary</b>	<b>Special</b>	<b>Pupil Referral Unit</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>163 schools</b>	<b>14 schools</b>	<b>6 schools</b>	<b>4 schools</b>	<b>187 schools</b>
Total Forecast School Revenue Balances (Net) as at 31 March 2024	£11,820k	-£1,393k	-£888k	£593k	<b>£10,132k</b>
No. Schools with an Accumulated Forecast Revenue Budget Surplus as at 31 March 2024	138	7	3	3	<b>151</b>
Average Value of Accumulated Forecast Revenue Budget Surplus as at 31 March 2024	£96k	£307k	£381k	£204k	<b>£113k</b>
No. Schools with an Accumulated Forecast Budget Deficit as at 31 March 2024	25	7	3	1	<b>36</b>
Average Value of Accumulated Forecast Revenue Budget Deficit as at 31 March 2024	-£55k	-£506k	-£677k	-£19k	<b>-£194k</b>
<i>Comparison to total school revenue balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023</i>	<i>-£3,234k</i>	<i>-£420k</i>	<i>-£1k</i>	<i>-£160k</i>	<b><i>-£3,815k</i></b>

(The overall number of individual school budgets have reduced from 195 to 187 between the 2022/23 and 2023/24 financial years due to 2 schools moving to operate within a joint budget Federation, 5 schools converting to academy status and 1 school closing).

## 7.3 School Finance and Funding Issues

- The Department for Education (DfE) provided revised 2024/25 school funding information on 6 October 2023 after the identification of an error made by DfE officials during the initial calculations of the NFF and processing of forecast pupil numbers. Nationally, the overall cost of the core schools budget is 0.62% greater

than allocated resulting in the funding through the mainstream schools national funding formula (NFF) increasing by 1.9% per pupil in 2024-25, compared to 2023-24; the original increase announced in July 2023 was 2.7% per pupil.

- School budgets have experienced significant cost pressures in the 2023/24 financial year. Cost pressures include:
  - Pay award cost pressures. The September 2023 teachers pay award was 6.5%, with school budgets being required to meet the initial 3.5% cost and the DfE providing additional grant funding to cover the cost in excess of 3.5%. The 2023/24 support staff pay award of £1,925 on non-teaching salary points 2 – 43 (equates to a 9.42% increase for staff on the lowest salary point) is a particularly cost pressure for schools in relation to classroom support staff.
  - Energy inflation cost pressures of 100%
  - Overall inflationary pressures of 10.1%
  - Cost pressures associated with supporting an increasing number of pupils with additional SEND support needs.
  - Below forecast inflation increases in school funding provided by Government for the 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years.
  
- North Yorkshire secondary schools are placed 141 out of 150 local authorities in terms of funding level per pupil. On average, a school in North Yorkshire will receive £5,994 per pupil in 2023-24 compared to a national average of £6,542. Comparing the funding for a 1,500 pupil secondary school this equates to a difference in funding of £0.82m. The funding for North Yorkshire primary schools is more favourable with a position 32 out of 150 local authorities in terms of the funding level per pupil. For primary schools, a North Yorkshire school will receive on average £5,125 per pupil compared to a national average of £5,014. The average funding position in relation to primary schools in North Yorkshire is influenced by the levels of the lump sum and sparsity funding received through the DfE National Funding Formula by the relatively high number of small, rural primary schools within the local authority area.
  
- North Yorkshire has a number of schools that, geographically, are vital in serving their local communities. Inadequate sparsity funding and general financial pressures for smaller, rural secondary schools, continues to be a significant concern. NYC utilises the provision in the DfE National Funding Formula (NFF) to locally provide additional lump sum funding of £50k for the smallest (less than 350 pupils), most rural secondary schools. NYC continues to lobby the DfE and local MPs for higher levels of funding for the small, rural secondary schools within the LA.

#### **7.4 Local Authority Support for Schools in Financial Difficulty**

- The Local Authority adopts a number of measures to support schools facing financial difficulty:

- the use of a financial risk rating framework to determine the level of support, challenge and intervention undertaken at individual school level,
  - the escalation path for financial intervention including the use of Notices of Financial Concern, where deemed appropriate. Currently, eight schools are subject to a Notice of Financial Concern.
  - the undertaking of School Resource Management reviews in individual schools where this has been identified as an appropriate intervention through the risk rating process. The reviews are based on the DfE School Resource Management Adviser (SRMA) model and are undertaken by LA staff, many of whom have the SRMA accreditation
  - continuing to undertake research into small school financial effectiveness to identify and share best practice
  - review of the Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS) and Resource Management dashboard in financially challenged schools
  - continuing the promotion of school collaboration and the sharing of best practice in terms of effective resource management between schools
  - the provision of Headteacher and Governor finance briefings and training
  - continuing to lobby DfE for fairer funding for North Yorkshire schools, especially in relation to small, rural secondary schools.
- In July 2023, the DfE announced the provision of up to £40 million of additional funding in 2023/2024, to support individual schools which find themselves in particular financial difficulties. Of the £40 million, £20 million has been provided to local authorities which have the most significant maintained school deficits. The distribution of the £20 million is targeted and not every local authority will receive additional funding. The DfE have allocated the £20 million between local authorities who have aggregated school-level deficits as a proportion of their total maintained schools' income above 1%. At the end of October 2023, the DfE announced that North Yorkshire Council will receive a funding allocation of £972k. The DfE have stated the funding is one-off and for the 2023-24 financial year only; there are no plans for the funding to continue for 2024-25. The local authority has developed proposed eligibility criteria and an associated funding allocation methodology for the distribution of the funding to schools in financial difficulty. These proposals will be considered by the Executive in mid-March 2024.

**7.5 Schools Financial Position – Skipton & Ripon**

<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>
<p>43 schools projecting to be in budget surplus as at 31 March 2023                      6 schools projecting to be in deficit by March 2023; 12% of schools in Skipton &amp; Ripon (1 nursery, 3 primary, 1 secondary, 1 PRU)</p> <p>Projected average nursery surplus = £50k                      Projected average primary surplus = £80k                      Projected average secondary surplus = £402k                      Projected average special surplus = £55k                      Projected average PRU surplus = N/A</p> <p>Projected average nursery deficit = -£52k                      Projected average primary deficit = -£39k                      Projected average secondary deficit = -£885k                      Projected average special deficit = N/A                      Projected average PRU deficit = -£95k</p> <p>(Data Source – 2023/24 Revised Budgets)</p>	<p>41 schools projecting to be in budget surplus as at 31 March 2024                      8 schools projecting to be in deficit by March 2024; 16% of schools in Skipton &amp; Ripon (2 nursery, 3 primary, 2 secondary, 1 PRU)</p> <p>Projected average nursery surplus = N/A                      Projected average primary surplus = £74k                      Projected average secondary surplus = £481k                      Projected average special surplus = £120k                      Projected average PRU surplus = N/A</p> <p>Projected average nursery deficit = -£52k                      Projected average primary deficit = -£57k                      Projected average secondary deficit = -£462k                      Projected average special deficit = N/A                      Projected average PRU deficit = -£19k</p> <p>(Data Source – 2023/24 Revised Budgets)</p>

**8.0 Planning school places**

**8.1 School sustainability**

The sustainability of schools is largely influenced by three key factors which are usually related to each other:

- Falling pupil rolls
- School standards
- Financial difficulty

Where school closures have regrettably occurred in North Yorkshire these factors have been relevant. There have been seven closures in the county over the last three years with three of these occurring in the constituency area. Recent closures in the constituency area include:

Kell Bank CE VC closed in August 2021.

Baldersby St James CE closed in August 2022

Skelton Newby Hall CE VC closed in August 2023.

### Proposed school closure

Fountains Earth, Lofthouse CE Endowed Primary School

The Executive on the 23 January 2024 resolved to proceed with the publication of statutory proposals and notices for the closure of the school. The closing date for further representations is the 29 February 2024. The Executive are scheduled to determine the proposal at their meeting on 19 March 2024. If approved the school would close on 31 March 2024.

## **8.2 Pupil rolls – current and future**

The Council has a statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places are available for every child under the Education Act 1996. For this purpose, it groups schools together into planning areas in accordance with the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency. Appendix 1 shows the planning areas together with:

- Capacity in the planning area
- Current numbers on roll
- Projected future numbers
- Projected impact of approved housing developments

The Council is carefully monitoring pupil numbers across the Skipton and Ripon constituency area. A large proportion of the constituency is rural and served by small schools located within villages. A falling birth rate combined with changing demographics means that a number of small schools are facing financial challenges associated with low numbers on roll. In the constituency area there are examples of schools working innovatively to mitigate these challenges including forming local federations. For all small schools the fluctuation of pupil numbers exacerbates the already challenging nature of school funding.

The general picture across the whole of the County shows projected growth in the urban areas contrasting with declining numbers in rural locations. There are several social and economic reasons for this including the availability and price of housing and employment factors. Currently we have several areas where the numbers on roll are falling and we have surplus capacity in the school system.

Appendix 1 does not include projections of pupil yield from sites proposed in the adopted Harrogate District Local Plan or the Craven Local Plan that do not yet have planning approval. Within the constituency area, Skipton town and Ripon will accommodate most of the housing growth over the Local Plan Period.

The key points to note within LA planning areas across the constituency area are:

## **8.3 Primary**

### **Ripon Town**

In addition to a number of current developments on-site or those with outstanding permission within Ripon Town, an outline planning application for 1,300 units at Claro Barracks, Deverell Barracks and Laver Banks has received planning permission and

this includes land for a new two form entry primary school. There is some capacity in existing primary schools in Ripon to cater for the first phase of housing development (at Deverell Barracks). Council officers are working collaboratively with Homes England and Defence Infrastructure Organisation on the provision of a school site on part of Claro Barracks and associated s.106 education contributions. It is currently anticipated that a new primary school will be provided in 2029.

It is assumed that the new school would initially open for nursery and reception pupils. The second year of opening would see Nursery, Reception and Year 1 pupils accommodated, adding a further year group for the third year and beyond until a full roll of 210 is achieved. This is in common with the opening profile for many newly established schools and helps to avoid destabilising existing provision. Further expansion of the school up to a two form entry will be in line with growth in pupil numbers from the catchment area.

### **Masham**

There are indicated sites within the Local Plan for the former Harrogate District, the Foxholme Lane site for 60 houses is currently under construction.

### **Boroughbridge**

There are a high number of housing permissions in this area and Officers are monitoring the situation carefully in Boroughbridge Town and Kirby Hill in terms of school place planning.

Additional capacity is planned for Boroughbridge Community Primary School (60 places), with work expected to start on site in Summer 2024.

### **Harrogate Primary Outer**

There is significant housing development planned/underway in the west of Harrogate. Beckwithshaw Community Primary School (Harrogate Outer Area) is located close to some of these developments.

The West of Harrogate Parameters Plan document was adopted in February 2022. The purpose of this document is to create an aligned, holistic site approach, addressing matters such as land use, access and movement, provision of community facilities and schools, green and blue infrastructure, public transport, cycling and pedestrian links, and phasing. Two primary school sites are provisionally indicated, one on H49 (Windmill Farm) and one on H51 (Land East of Whinney Lane).

### **Skipton Town**

During the consultation on the Craven Local Plan the need for two additional primary schools within Skipton town was identified. It was suggested that one of these could be located on land already within NYC's ownership to the north west of the town (Raikeswood Drive), and the other could be within sites to the east of the town (Airedale Ave and Elsey Croft). Other options for providing additional places within the town were also considered and a planning application has recently been approved by the planning authority for an expansion of Greatwood Primary Academy. This would add an additional 210 places to the primary school without the need to build a new school on one of the sites reserved.

Following the procurement exercise which resulted in only a small number of returned tenders, and a review of pupil forecast data which did not show the need for



additional places within the timescale originally envisaged, it was agreed that the delivery of the project should be delayed until September 2026. The delay will provide opportunity to re-evaluate the need for the additional places and then, if required, re-tender using a different procurement route so we can be better placed to achieve value for money.

## **8.4 Secondary**

### **Ripon Secondary Schools**

There are three secondary schools in the Ripon area: Ripon Grammar School, Outwood Ripon Academy and Nidderdale High School and Community College, Pateley Bridge. The scale of anticipated development for Ripon and the surrounding area, including the Ripon Barracks site, does not warrant the introduction of a new secondary school in the town area. The LA is expecting to secure developer contributions to enable the expansion of provision on an existing secondary town site(s) and have commenced discussions about how to introduce additional capacity.

### **Skipton Secondary Schools**

It is not expected that the new housing in Skipton will warrant the need for additional secondary school places in the town. There are currently 158 surplus places across the secondary schools in Skipton and the estimated pupil yield from new housing is not expected to exceed that number.

### **South Craven School**

The Bradford Local Plan includes a target for new homes in Silsden of 700 homes, and in Steeton and Eastburn of 175 homes. Using our usual multiplier of 1 secondary aged pupil from every 8 houses, this would generate approximately 109 secondary aged pupils. The Craven Local Plan includes proposals for housing in Glusburn/Crosshills, Cononley, Cowling, Farnhill & Kildwick, and Sutton-in-Craven, which would generate approximately 20 secondary aged pupils. These would be in addition to the pupils from current housing permissions shown in Appendix 1.

South Craven School currently has around 267 pupils on roll from outside its catchment area who reside in the Bradford Local Authority area. If there were to be increased demand from within the school's own catchment area, the proportion of out-of-catchment area pupils would decrease over time.

## **9.0 Recommendation**

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| <p><b>9.1</b> That Members note the report on educational factors in the Skipton and Ripon constituency area.</p> |
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Authors: Amanda Newbold (Assistant Director – Education and Skills), Howard Emmett (Assistant Director – Strategic Resources), Janet Crawford (Assistant Director – Inclusion)



Appendix 1 - School Place Planning data

## APPENDIX 1

### Planning Areas and forecast surplus/shortfall school places

<b>School planning area</b>	Places available as at 2023/2024	Number on Roll 2019/2020	Number on roll 2023/2024	Surplus Capacity 2023/2024	Forecast pupils as at 2028/2029	Pupils from current housing permissions until 2028/2029	Surplus capacity 2028/2029
*School located in a neighbouring constituency area							
<b>PRIMARY</b>							
<b>Boroughbridge Primary Area</b> Boroughbridge Primary* Kirby Hill CE Roecliffe CE	474	330	387	87	423	100	-49
<b>Boroughbridge Primary Outer Area</b> Dishforth Airfield CP Great Ouseburn CP* Green Hammerton CE* Kirk Hammerton CE* Marton-cum-Grafton CE Nun Monkton Primary* St Peter's Brafferton CE* Staveley CP*	784	551	574	210	562	67	155
<b>Total (Boroughbridge Primary &amp; Boroughbridge Primary Outer)</b>	<b>1258</b>	<b>881</b>	<b>961</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>985</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>106</b>

<b>Harrogate Primary Outer Area</b> All Saint's CE School* Askwith CP Beckwithshaw CP Birstwith CE Admiral Long CE Darley CP Follifoot CE* Hampsthwaite CE* Kettlesing Felliscliffe CP Killinghall CE* North Rigton CE Ripley Endowed* Sicklinghall CE* Spofforth CE*	1377	1198	1076	301	984	178	215
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<b>Masham Primary</b> Masham CE VA Primary	116	113	73	43	58	23	35
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<b>Nidderdale Primary Outer</b> Dacre Braithwaite CE Fountains Earth, Lofthouse CE Glasshouses CP Summerbridge CP	263	211	204	59	181	25	57
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<b>North Craven Primary Outer</b> Austwick CE Bentham CP Giggleswick Primary Hellifield CP Ingleton Primary Long Preston Endowed VA	729	499	534	195	552	60	117
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<b>School planning area</b>  *School located in a neighbouring constituency area	Places available as at 2023/2024	Number on Roll 2019/2020	Number on roll 2023/2024	Surplus Capacity 2023/2024	Forecast pupils as at 2028/2029	Pupils from current housing permissions until 2028/2029	Surplus capacity 2028/2029
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<b>Pateley Bridge Primary</b> St Cuthbert's CE Primary	119	83	48	71	48	7	64
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<b>Ripon Primary</b> Holy Trinity CofE Infant School Holy Trinity CofE Junior School Moorside Primary School Outwood Academy Greystone Ripon Cathedral CE Sharow CE St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary	1279	1168	1093	186	938	210	131
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<b>Ripon Primary Outer</b> Bishop Monkton CE Burton Leonard CE Fountains CE Grewelthorpe CE Kirkby Malzeard CE Markington CE North Stainley CE	595	537	495	100	454	39	102
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<b>Total (Ripon Primary &amp; Ripon Primary Outer)</b>	<b>1874</b>	<b>1705</b>	<b>1588</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>1392</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>233</b>
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<b>Settle Primary</b> Settle CE	210	180	200	10	174	16	20
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<b>Skipton Primary</b> Christ Church CE Skipton Parish Church CE Skipton, Greatwood CP Skipton, Water Street CP St Stephen's Catholic	1139	963	905	234	817	151	171
<b>Skipton Primary Outer</b> Bradleys Both CP Burnsall VA Primary Carleton Endowed CE Cracoe and Rylstone CE Embsay CE Gargrave CE Grassington CE Kettlewell Primary Kirkby in Malhamdale United VA The Boyle and Petyt Primary Thornton in Craven CP Threshfield School	1323	1051	1043	280	987	56	280
<b>Total (Skipton Primary and Skipton Primary Outer)</b>	<b>2462</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>1948</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>1804</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>451</b>

<b>School planning area</b>	Places available as at 2023/2024	Number on Roll 2019/2020	Number on roll 2023/2024	Surplus Capacity 2023/2024	Forecast pupils as at 2028/2029	Pupils from current housing permissions until 2028/2029	Surplus capacity 2028/2029
<b>South Craven Primary</b> Glusburn CP Sutton in Craven CE Sutton-in-Craven CP	731	699	678	53	614	19	98
<b>South Craven Primary Outer</b> Cononley CP Cowling CP Kildwick CE Lothersdale Primary	508	515	520	-12	467	13	28

<b>Total (South Craven Primary and South Craven Primary Outer)</b>	<b>1239</b>	<b>1214</b>	<b>1198</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>1081</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>126</b>
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<b>Thirsk Outer</b> Alanbrooke School* Carlton Miniott Primary Academy* Knayton CE Academy* Sessay CE VC Primary* South Kilvington CE VC Primary* Topcliffe CE Academy* Dishforth CE Pickhill CE*	912	829	813	99	781	47	84
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<b>SECONDARY</b>							
<b>Harrogate &amp; Rural Secondary</b> Nidderdale High Harrogate Grammar* Rossett School* Harrogate High* St John Fisher Catholic High* St Aidan's CE High*	7749	7924	7530	219	7658	316	-225

<b>Mid Craven Secondary</b> Ermysted's Grammar School Skipton Girls' High School The Skipton Academy Upper Wharfedale School	2826	2268	2668	158	2722	46	58
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<b>North Craven Secondary</b> Settle College	675	645	596	79	561	39	75
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<b>Ripon &amp; Rural Secondary</b> Outwood Academy Ripon Ripon Grammar School	1675	1620	1627	48	1513	129	33
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<b>South Craven Secondary</b> South Craven School	1806	1806	1868	-62	1862	13	-69
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Note

- School planning areas are groups of schools which are used for assessing current and future pupil demand for school place provision and structured according to DfE guidelines.
- Figures above take into account outstanding housing permissions, but not undetermined planning applications or draft Local Plan proposals. Pupil yield from housing is based on 25% for primary aged pupils and 13% for secondary aged pupils.