

**North Yorkshire Council
Richmond Area Committee
17 March 2025**

Schools update

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 Richmond committee area.

2.0 Local educational landscape

2.1 As of 31 August 2024 there was a total of 71 schools and academies within the Richmond Committee area. The table below shows the number of schools and academies in both the county as a whole and the Richmond committee area by school type.

Summary of schools' status – 31 August 2024

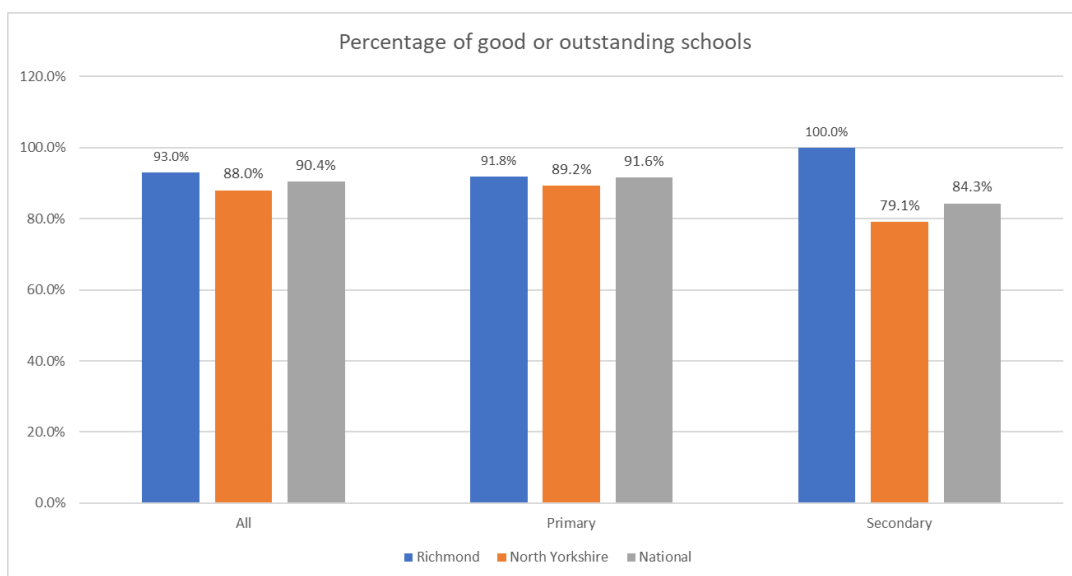
	Schools in North Yorkshire		Schools in Richmond AC	
Primary Maintained	173	58.6%	42	68.9%
Primary Academy & Free School	122	41.4%	19	31.1%
Total	295		61	
Secondary Maintained	13	30.2%	3	42.9%
Secondary Academy	30	69.8%	4	57.1%
Total	43		7	
Special Maintained	6	60%	2	100%
Special Academy	4	40%	0	0%
Total	10		2	
PRU Maintained	4	80%	1	100%
PRU Academy	1	20%	0	0%
Total	5		1	
Total maintained	196	55.5%	48	67.6%
Total Academy	157	44.5%	23	32.4%
Overall Total	353		71	

3.0 School standards

3.1 School Ofsted judgements

In the committee area, as of August 2024, 91.8% of primary schools were judged Good or Outstanding by Ofsted, which is above the North Yorkshire rate, and similar to the national rate. In terms of secondary schools, 100% were judged Good or Outstanding; this is higher than both the North Yorkshire and national averages. Overall, there are three schools judged 'requires improvement' and two 'inadequate' in the committee area.

At the time of writing, the constituency areas two North Yorkshire Maintained Special Schools and Pupil Referral Service were recorded as either 'Good' or 'Outstanding'.



In 2024, 100% (28 of 28) of the childcare establishments (childcare in non-domestic premises) which have had an Ofsted inspection in the committee area were 'Good' or 'Outstanding'. The rate in North Yorkshire was 98% 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 in the Early Years (Early Years Foundation Stage Profile) has continued to be above national benchmarks and is beginning to approach the level of attainment seen before the pandemic. Attainment of children at Key Stage 2 is improving but yet to recover to pre-pandemic levels. In secondary schools the percentage achieving a grade 5 or above in both English and Maths (Basics) improved in 2024 and is now 1.6% higher than national.

3.4 Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP)

In 2024, 71.2% of children in the committee area achieved a Good Level of Development. An in-year comparison of EYFSP outcomes with LA and national figures (see table below) shows

that the same proportion of pupils within the committee area achieved a good level of development compared with all NYC pupils and this reflects a higher proportion than national.

Early Years Foundation Stage Profile – percentage achieving a good level of development			
	Richmond	North Yorks	National
2019	73.3%	72.8%	71.8%
No scores due to covid			
2022	70.4%	68.3%	65.2%
2023	71.2%	70.3%	67.2%
2024	71.2%	71.2%	67.7%

3.5 Key Stage 2

In 2024, 58.3% of children in the committee area achieved the expected standard in reading, writing and maths, which is higher than the North Yorkshire average but below the national comparable figure. An in-year comparison of KS2 attainment with LA and national figures is shown in the table below.

Key Stage 2 - percentage achieving the expected standard or above in reading, writing and maths combined.			
	Richmond	North Yorks	National
2019	60.3%	63.4%	64.9%
No scores due to covid			
2022	52.2%	56.6%	58.9%
2023	53.1%	56.1%	60.0%
2024	58.3%	57.8%	61.0%

3.6 Key Stage 4

The average Attainment 8 score, which measures the achievement of a pupil across eight qualifications, was 43.6 for 2024. This is below both the North Yorkshire and national comparable figures.

Key Stage 4 - Average Attainment 8 score			
	Richmond	North Yorks	National
2019	45.0	48.7	46.7
No scores due to covid			
2022	48.2	50.3	48.8
2023	44.2	46.8	46.3
2024	43.6	46.8	46.1

The percentage achieving a grade 5 or above (grading is 9-1) in English and Maths (Basics measure) was 39.3% for 2024. This is below both the national and the North Yorkshire comparable figures.

Key Stage 4 - Percentage achieving a grade 5 or above in English and Maths			
	Richmond	North Yorks	National
2019	38.2%	47.4%	43.2%
No scores due to covid			
2022	48.1%	53.8%	49.8%
2023	39.5%	46.0%	45.3%
2024	39.3%	47.7%	46.1%

3.7 Not in education, employment or training

There were 967 young people recorded in Year 11 living in this committee area in May 2024 and of this cohort only 14 (1.5%) were not in education, employment or training after leaving school in January 2025. The figure compares favourably with the overall North Yorkshire figure of 1.7% for the same period.

4.0 Suspension Incidents and Permanent Exclusions

4.1 Suspension Incidents

In the 2023/24 academic year, there have been a total of 9960 suspensions for a total of 3114 individual children in North Yorkshire. 605 of these children were on roll of mainstream schools in the Richmond committee area.

Suspension Incidents								
Academic year	Pupils suspended			Total Suspensions			Reason for suspension	
	North Yorkshire	Richmond (mainstream)	Percentage of North Yorkshire total (pupils)	North Yorkshire	Richmond (mainstream)	Percentage of North Yorkshire total (incidents)	Most common reason (Richmond)	Most common reason (North Yorkshire)
2018/19	2149	314	15%	5970	824	13.80%	Persistent disruptive behaviour (53.4%)	Persistent or general disruptive behaviour (48.7%)
2019/20	1578	250	16%	4365	674	15.44%	Persistent or general disruptive behaviour (43.0%)	Persistent or general disruptive behaviour (48.2%)
2020/21	1578	276	17%	3553	588	16.55%	Persistent or general disruptive behaviour (32.0%)	Persistent or general disruptive behaviour (40.0%)
2021/22	2046	363	18%	5197	897	17.26%	Persistent or general disruptive behaviour (40%)	Persistent or general disruptive behaviour (45.5%)
2022/23	2753	532	19%	7639	1559	20%	Persistent or general disruptive behaviour (55.8%)	Persistent or general disruptive behaviour (48.2%)
2023/24	3114	605	19%	9960	2111	21%	Persistent or general disruptive behaviour (63.9%)	Persistent or general disruptive behaviour (53.4%)

In 2023/24, schools in the committee area had a 16% share of the total schools' population in North Yorkshire and had a 21% share of suspensions for the whole county.

4.2 Permanent exclusions

In 2023/24, there were 122 permanent exclusions from all schools in the county, 29 of which were for children in Richmond mainstream schools. In the same period of 2022/23, there were 96 permanent exclusions, 23 of which were from the Richmond area.

Academic year	Richmond	North Yorkshire	Percentage of North Yorkshire total
2018/19	15	87	17%
2019/20	15	51	29.41%
2020/21	3	26	11.54%
2021/22	13	55	23.64%
2022/23	23	96	24%
2023/24	29	122	24%

In 2023/24, schools in the committee area had a 16% share of the total schools' population in North Yorkshire and had a 24% share of permanent exclusions for the whole county.

4.3 Responding to increasing exclusion from schools

It is important to note that the decision to suspend or permanently exclude from school can only be made by the school's headteacher as a last resort. The increasing rates of suspensions and permanent exclusions were discussed as part of an 'Education Matters' conference held in Harrogate in 2024.

The North Yorkshire response has also included outreach support for schools through SEND Locality Hub teams, offering outreach services for children at risk of suspension or permanent exclusion.

5.0 Special Education Needs and Disabilities

5.1 SEN Statistics for Committee Area

As of 31 December 2024, there was 891 children in the committee area with a North Yorkshire funded EHC plan, this amounted to 16.6% of the North Yorkshire total. The most common needs are:

- Autism (47%) (34% in North Yorkshire)
- Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH, 17%) (19% in North Yorkshire)
- Moderate Learning Disabilities (MLD, 11%) (10% in North Yorkshire)

There were 1858 in the committee area with SEN Support in North Yorkshire schools (2024 School Census (January)), amounting to 17.6% of the North Yorkshire total. The most common needs are:

- Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH, 19%), (19% in North Yorkshire)
- Speech, Language and Communication (SLCN, 19%) (20% in North Yorkshire)
- Specific Learning Difficulties ((e.g. Dyslexia), 18%) (22% in North Yorkshire)

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

Whilst requests for Education, Health and Care plans (EHC plans) shows some sign of slowing, demand for assessments continues to be historically high.

The 2022/23 academic year saw 1263 requests for assessment for an EHC plan received, the highest number since EHC plans were introduced. Slightly fewer requests were received by

North Yorkshire Council in 2023/24, a total of 1196. 219 (18.3%) were for children or young people living in the committee area in 2023/24, a circa. 11% decrease on the 247 in 2022/23.

Additional capacity has been built into North Yorkshire Council's Educational Psychology Service this is expected to have an impact on the timeliness of responding to assessment requests.

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. Aligned with our Local Area Partnership Strategy the Council continues to maintain a focus upon working with mainstream schools to strengthen the offer for children with SEN so the vast majority can be educated within their local communities. Additionally, the council also have an agreed £20.5m capital programme to develop more specialist places for children across the county. This includes developing Targeted Mainstream Provision as well as increasing Special School places.

In the Richmond committee area the council remain committed to the delivery of a new special school in Northallerton. The council successfully bid for the school in 2022 to be delivered by the DfE and Wellspring Academy Trust have been selected to run it upon completion. The council is awaiting notification from the DfE regarding their proposed programme for delivery. Additionally, The Dales School have been approved to receive capital investment of c.£250k to provide a small increase in capacity and to further enhance the facilities available to children attending the school. Whilst the local area already has a full complement of Targeted Mainstream Provisions, unlike other areas, dialogue continues between schools and the council to explore the possibility of further increasing the number of TMPs in line with future demand forecasts.

6.0 Elective Home Education

Total EHE

As of the end of the 23/24 academic year there were 1303 children recorded as Electively Home Educated (EHE) in North Yorkshire, 180 (13.81%) of which were formerly attending a school in Richmond AC. At the same point in the previous year, there were 953 children EHE in North Yorkshire, 129 formerly from a school in Richmond. This represents a 39.5% increase in the area, compared to a 37% increase in North Yorkshire as a whole.

	Richmond EHE	Richmond EHE % of all North Yorkshire EHE	Total North Yorkshire EHE
22/23	129	13.54%	953
23/24	180	13.81%	1303

In 2023/24, schools in the committee area had a 16% share of the total schools' population in North Yorkshire and had a 13.8% share of electively home educated children and young people for the whole county.

Becoming EHE

In the 2023/24 academic year, 821 children became EHE in North Yorkshire, 116 of which were formerly educated in a school in the Richmond. This figure in the previous academic year (2022/23) was 68 from Richmond out of 482 becoming EHE in North Yorkshire.

The government has set out plans to introduce a requirement for families subject to a protection plan to get council permission before removing a child from school to be home-educated as

part of the Children’s Wellbeing Bill (December, 2024). Earlier this year it also announced plans to introduce a national register in England to help account for all home-educated children.

7.0 School Finance

7.1 2023/2024 School Revenue Balances

Local Authority maintained school revenue balances as at 31 March 2024 are summarised below, together with a comparison with 2023. The balances are also expressed as a percentage of school delegated budgets.

	Primary & Nursery 161 schools	Secondary 14 schools	Special 6 schools	Pupil Referral Unit 4 schools	Total 185 schools
Total School Revenue Balances (Net) as at 31 March 2024	£15,522k	-£448k	£303k	£810k	£16,187k
% of Revenue Budget	12.6%	-0.8%	1.7%	31.2%	8.1%
No. Schools with an Accumulated Revenue Budget Surplus as at 31 March 2024	143	10	4	4	161
No. Schools with an Accumulated Revenue Budget Deficit as at 31 March 2024	18	4	2	0	24
<i>Comparison to total school revenue balance (net) as at 31 March 2023</i>	+£1,288k	+£639k	+£1,191k	+£57k	+£3,175k

(The number of school budgets submitted to the local authority for 2023/24 is lower than the total number of local authority maintained schools operating within North Yorkshire due to a number of school federations operating a single, amalgamated budget covering all of the schools within the federation)

24 schools (13% of LA Maintained schools) had an accumulated revenue budget deficit totalling £5.3M as of 31 March 2024. An analysis of the budget deficits by school phase is detailed in the table below:

	Primary & Nursery	Secondary	Special	Pupil Referral Unit	Total
No. Schools with an Accumulated Revenue Budget Deficit as at 31 March 2024	18	4	2	0	24
Total School Revenue Deficit Balances as at 31 March 2024	-£825k	-£2,793k	-£1,698k	N/A	-£5,316k
Average Value of Accumulated Revenue Budget Deficit as at 31 March 2024	-£46k	-£698k	-£849k	N/A	-£221k
Highest Accumulated Revenue Budget Deficit as at 31 March 2024	-£184k	-£959k	-£1,631k	N/A	-£1,631k
Lowest Accumulated Revenue Budget Deficit as at 31 March 2024	-£1.4k	-£493k	-£67k	N/A	-£1.4k

7.2 School Budget Projections - Based on 2024/25 Revised budgets

The 2024/25 Revised Budgets submitted to the local authority by schools in December 2024 are summarised below:

	Primary & Nursery	Secondary	Special	Pupil Referral Unit	Total
	148 schools	12 schools	5 schools	4 schools	169 schools
Total Forecast School Revenue Balances (Net) as at 31 March 2025	£11,045k	-£678k	-£1,769k	£728k	£9,326k
No. Schools with an Accumulated Forecast Revenue Budget Surplus as at 31 March 2025	125	6	4	4	139
Average Value of Accumulated Forecast Revenue Budget Surplus as at 31 March 2025	£101k	£303k	£52k	£182k	£110k
No. Schools with an Accumulated Forecast Budget Deficit as at 31 March 2025	23	6	1	0	30
Average Value of Accumulated	-£67k	-£416k	-£1,976k	£0k	-£200k

Forecast Revenue Budget Deficit as at 31 March 2025					
<i>Comparison to total school revenue balance as at 31st March 2024</i>	<i>-£4,477k</i>	<i>-£230k</i>	<i>-£2,072k</i>	<i>-£82k</i>	<i>-£6,861k</i>

(The overall number of individual school budgets have reduced from 185 to 169 between the 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years due to 14 schools converting to academy status and 2 schools closing).

7.3 School Finance and Funding Issues

- The Government’s 30 October 2024 Budget announced total core school funding is increasing nationally by £2.3 billion in 2025/26. This includes funding through the schools NFF, high needs funding, Central School Service Block (CSSB) of the Dedicated schools grant (DSG) and pupil premium. Of the £2.3 billion increase in total school funding, £1.3 billion will cover:
 - the remaining costs of the 2024 teachers’ pay award in mainstream schools, so that the full 12 months of salary costs are fully funded at a national level;
 - an increase to the mainstream schools NFF; and,
 - increases to the pupil premium and other elements of core funding.
- The remaining £1 billion of the additional £2.3bn core school funding will be added to the overall high needs budget.
- The 2025/26 school funding formula factor values have been increased to include the rolling in of the previously separate grants in 2024/25 of Teachers Pay Additional Grant (TPAG), Teachers Pension Employer Contribution Grant (TPECG) and Core School Budget Grant (CSBG). The floor is ‘cash flat’ at 0%, after taking account of the funding that schools received through TPAG, TPECG and CSBG in 2024/25. The DfE require local authorities to set the 2025/26 Minimum Funding Guarantee funding protection level for schools between **minus 0.5% and 0%**. The DfE anticipate that further funding, in respect of the increase in employers’ National Insurance contributions, will be provided in 2025/26 by a grant outside the School National Funding Formula. However, the DfE have stated that schools will be required to fund the teaching and support staff pay awards from their 2025/26 budget allocations, with no additional funding support.
- School budgets have experienced significant cost pressures in the 2024/25 financial year, this position is expected to continue for the 2025/26 financial year. Cost pressures include:
 - Below forecast inflation increases in school funding provided by Government for the 2024/25 and 2025/26 financial years; this is likely to be particularly challenging for many schools in respect of meeting pay award costs for the 2025/26 financial year.
 - Cost pressures associated with supporting an increasing number of pupils with additional SEND support needs.
- North Yorkshire secondary schools are placed 142 out of 151 local authorities in terms of funding level per pupil. On average, a school in North Yorkshire will receive £6,326 per pupil in 2024-25 compared to a national average of £6,879. Comparing the funding for a 1,500

pupil secondary school this equates to a difference in funding of £0.83m. The funding for North Yorkshire primary schools is more favourable with a position 34 out of 151 local authorities in terms of the funding level per pupil. For primary schools, a North Yorkshire school will receive on average £5,381 per pupil compared to a national average of £5,281. 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, ten 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 either commissioned from the DfE or undertaken by LA staff with the SRMA accreditation and based on the DfE School Resource Management Adviser (SRMA) model.
 - 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 2023/24 North Yorkshire Council received a funding allocation of £972k to support individual schools in financial difficulty. The local authority developed an eligibility criteria and an associated funding allocation methodology to distribute the funding to schools in financial difficulty. The DfE have stated that the funding was one-off for the 2023-24 financial only and has not continued for 2024-25

7.5 Schools Financial Position – Richmond

2023/24	2024/25
30 schools projecting to be in budget surplus as at 31 March 2024 6 schools projecting to be in deficit by March 2024; 17% of schools in Richmond (3 primary, 2 secondary, 1 special)	31 schools projecting to be in budget surplus as at 31 March 2025 5 schools projecting to be in deficit by March 2025; 14% of schools in Richmond (3 primary, 2 secondary)
Projected average primary surplus = £134k Projected average secondary surplus = £293k Projected average special surplus = N/A Projected average PRU surplus = £255k	Projected average primary surplus = £107k Projected average secondary surplus = £284k Projected average special surplus = £52k Projected average PRU surplus = £150k
Projected average primary deficit = -£23k Projected average secondary deficit = -£726k Projected average special deficit = -£67k Projected average PRU deficit = N/A	Projected average primary deficit = -£30k Projected average secondary deficit = -£629k Projected average special deficit = N/A Projected average PRU deficit = N/A
(Data Source – 2024/25 Revised Budgets)	(Data Source – 2024/25 Revised Budgets)

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 occurred in North Yorkshire these factors have been relevant. During the period 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2024 there were 9 school closures within the county. These included one within the committee area which was the technical closure of Wavell Junior School with effect from 7 April 2024 to facilitate its amalgamation with Wavell Community Infants School.

In June 2024 the Governing Board of Hackforth and Hornby Church of England Voluntary Controlled School requested that the council undertake a consultation in respect of the closure of the school. A statutory process has been undertaken by the council and on 18 March 2025 the Executive Member for Education, Learning and Skills will consider a report arising from a statutory consultation in respect of the proposed closure of Hackforth and Hornby CE VC Primary School and determine whether to proceed with the closure with effect from 31 August 2025.

On 29 January 2025 the Secretary of State made a substantive decision to close Kirkby Fleetham Church of England Primary School (an academy which forms part of the Dales Academy Trust) also with effect from 31 August 2025. This decision was taken in accordance with the DfE's process for the closure of academies, as set out in the guidance, 'Closure of an academy by mutual agreement,' October 2024.

8.2 Pupil rolls – current and future

In accordance with the Education Act, 1996 the Council has a statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places are available for every child. For this purpose, it groups schools together into planning areas in accordance with the requirements of the DfE. Appendix 1 shows the planning areas for the Richmond Committee area together with: -

- The schools and academies in each planning area
- 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 Richmond committee area. A large proportion of the area is rural and served by small schools located within villages. A falling birth rate combined with other demographic changes means that a number of small schools are facing financial challenges associated with low numbers on roll. In the committee area there are examples of schools working innovatively to mitigate these challenges. This includes collaborative working between schools, including in 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. Currently, there are several areas where the numbers on roll are falling and there is surplus capacity in the school system.

Appendix 1 does not include projections of pupil yield from housing development sites that have been proposed but that do not yet have planning approval. Within the committee area the most significant development is planned for Catterick and North Northallerton.

The key points to note within the planning areas across the committee area, and which have a potential impact upon school places, are:

- 8.4 *Swaledale Area* – The proposed second and third phases of housing at Gatherley Road have the potential to yield additional pupils. However, a falling birth rate, the general availability of housing and employment factors have resulted in a fall in numbers in many of Swaledale’s schools. Officers will continue to monitor the development and pupil numbers to review the potential requirement for additional school capacity to be provided.
- 8.5 *Northallerton Area* – North Northallerton is the principal site for housing in Hambleton’s Local Plan. Oakbridge Church of England Primary School, a new one form entry primary school located in North Northallerton, opened in September 2024, under a phased opening plan, to help accommodate children generated from the housing.
- 8.6 *Stokesley Area* – Despite the housing allocations serving Stokesley in Hambleton’s Local Development Plan, the anticipated pupil yield from this housing is not forecast to generate a shortfall in either the primary or secondary schools.
- 8.7 *Catterick Area* – Richmondshire’s Local Development Plan identified Catterick Garrison as its principal development area and included significant allocations of open market housing and service family accommodation. Officers are continuing to monitor the pupil numbers at the garrison, including changes arising from the ongoing new development and planned troop movements. The current assessment is that no additional school place

capacity is likely to be required to accommodate the additional housing proposed in the Local Development Plan, but this will be kept under review.

- 8.8 *Wensleydale Area* – This area of the Richmond committee area is characterised by schools serving sparsely populated, and super-sparsely populated, areas. Demographic changes within those areas have resulted in significant reductions in pupil numbers which, in turn, have resulted in financial challenges for the local schools.

Wensleydale School and Sixth Form, for example, has approximately half the pupils of a single urban secondary, yet its sparsely populated catchment area covers an area which in a city would be served by several secondary schools.

Wensleydale School and Sixth Form temporarily suspended its sixth form provision with effect from September 2023. This decision was taken by the School’s Governing Board in response to the relatively low numbers of post-16 students on the schools roll, and the challenges that this presented in maintaining a viable post-16 provision in terms of quality of experience, subject breadth and financial viability. The council has undertaken a statutory process in respect of the permanent closure of the sixth form and on 18 March the Executive Member for Education, Learning and Skills will consider a report arising from a statutory consultation in respect of the proposed closure and determine whether to proceed with the proposal .

9.0 Recommendation

- 9.1** That Members note the report on educational factors in the Richmond committee area.

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Appendix 1 - School Place Planning data

Planning Areas and forecast surplus/shortfall school places as of 31 August 2024

School planning area	Places available as of 2023/ 2024	Number on Roll 2019/ 2020	Number on roll 2023/ 2024	Surplus Capacity 2023/ 2024	Forecast pupils as of 2028/ 2029	Projected Pupils from current housing permissions until 2028/2029	Forecast/ Surplus capacity 2028/29
*School located in a neighbouring committee area							
PRIMARY							
Bedale • Bedale CE	420	349	314	106	305	39	76
Bedale Outer Area • Aiskew, Leeming Bar CE • Burneston CE (VA) • Crakehall CE Primary • Hackforth and Hornby CE • Hunton and Arrathorne CP • Leeming and Londonderry CP • Leeming RAF CP • Snape CP • St. Nicholas CE Primary, West Tanfield • Thornton Watlass CE	963	598	619	344	562	64	337
Total	1383	947	933	450	867	103	413

Catterick Garrison • Carnagill CP • Le Cateau CP • Wavell Community Primary • Cambrai Primary Academy	1365	1265	933	432	812	74	479
Catterick Outer Area • Bolton-on-Swale St Mary's CE • Colburn CP • Hipswell CE Primary • Michael Syddall CE (Aided)	818	724	649	169	539	38	241
Total	2183	1989	1582	601	1351	122	710

School planning area							
*School located in a neighbouring committee area	Places available as of 2023/ 2024	Number on Roll 2019/ 2020	Number on roll 2023/ 2024	Surplus Capacity 2023/ 2024	Forecast pupils as of 2028/ 2029	Projected Pupils from current housing permissions until 2028/2029	Forecast/ Surplus capacity 2028/29
Northallerton <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alverton CP • Applegarth Primary • Broomfield School • Mill Hill CP • Romanby Primary • Sacred Heart RC 	1347	1185	1225	122	1118	67	162
Northallerton Outer Area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ainderby Steeple CE • Appleton Wiske CP • Brompton CP • East Cowton CE • Great Smeaton Academy • Kirkby Fleetham CE • Osmotherley Primary • South Otterington CE * 	813	572	564	249	514	80	219
Total	2160	1757	1789	371	1632	147	381

Stokesley Primary Area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stokesley Primary 	399	223	205	194	228	26	145
Stokesley Primary Outer Area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bilsdale Midcable Chop Gate CE • Carlton & Faceby CE VA • Hutton Rudby • Ingleby Greenhow CE VA • Kirkby & Great Broughton CE VA • Marwood CE VC Infant • Roseberry Academy 	835	698	688	147	655	10	170
Total	1234	921	893	341	883	36	315

Thirsk Outer Area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alanbrooke School* • Carlton Miniott Primary Academy* • Knayton CE Academy* • Sessay CE VC Primary* • South Kilvington CE Academy* • Topcliffe CE Academy* • Dishforth CE* • Pickhill CE 	912	829	813	99	761	31	120
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School planning area	Places available as of 2023/ 2024	Number on Roll 2019/ 2020	Number on roll 2023/ 2024	Surplus Capacity 2023/ 2024	Forecast pupils as of 2028/ 2029	Projected Pupils from current housing permissions until 2028/2029	Forecast/ Surplus capacity 2028/29
*School located in a neighbouring committee area							
Swaledale Primary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brompton-on-Swale CE Primary • Middleton Tyas CE • Richmond Methodist • St Mary's RC Primary • Trinity Academy Richmond 	1196	993	887	309	781	44	371
Swaledale Primary Outer Area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barton CE Primary • Croft CE Primary • Eppleby Forcett CE • Gunnerside Methodist • Melsonby Methodist • North & South Cowton CP • Ravensworth CE Primary • Reeth CP 	525	339	331	194	279	43	203
Total	1721	1332	1218	503	1060	87	574

Wensleydale Primary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leyburn Primary 	210	195	169	41	148	48	14
Wensleydale Primary Outer Area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Askrigg VC Primary • Bainbridge CE Primary & Nursery • Hawes Primary • Middleham CE • Spennithorne CE Primary • West Burton CE Primary 	480	252	255	225	220	68	192
Total	690	447	424	266	368	116	206

School planning area *School located in a neighbouring committee area	Places available as of 2023/ 2024	Number on Roll 2019/ 2020	Number on roll 2023/ 2024	Surplus Capacity 2023/ 2024	Forecast pupils as of 2028/ 2029	Projected Pupils from current housing permissions until 2028/2029	Forecast/ Surplus capacity 2028/29
SECONDARY							
Bedale • Bedale High School	935	479	594	341	615	36	284
Catterick • Risedale School	925	532	606	319	609	62	254
Northallerton • Northallerton School & 6 th F	1250	1021	1084	166	1190	48	12
Stokesley • Stokesley School	1269	1165	1104	165	1100	11	158
Swaledale • Richmond School • St Francis Xavier School	2210	1845	1851	359	1791	38	381
Wensleydale • The Wensleydale School & 6 th Form	492	365	340	152	341	25	126

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