

APPENDIX D

Climate change impact assessment

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

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

If you have any additional queries which are not covered by the guidance please email climatechange@northyorks.gov.uk

Version 2: amended 11 August 2021

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

Planning Permission
Environmental Impact Assessment
Strategic Environmental Assessment

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

Please contact climatechange@northyorks.gov.uk for advice.

Title of proposal	School Organisation
Brief description of proposal	Proposal by North Yorkshire Council to change the age range at Wensleydale School and Sixth Form by ceasing the Sixth Form Provision
Directorate	Children and Young Peoples' Service
Service area	Strategic Planning
Lead officer	Mark Ashton
Names and roles of other people involved in carrying out the impact assessment	
Date impact assessment started	19/11/24

Options appraisal

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

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

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

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

Under Local Management of Schools, schools are responsible for their own budgets. It is for heads and governors to determine at school or federation level how to optimise the use of resources and maximise value for money.

As there are currently no pupils in the sixth form at Wensleydale School and Sixth Form there would be no immediate transportation costs. Any pupils living in the current Wensleydale School catchment area applying for post 16 places would be assessed under the Council's Post 16 Transport Policy Statement at the appropriate time. As such future transport costs cannot be estimated.

<p>How will this proposal impact on the environment?</p> <p>N.B. There may be short term negative impact and longer term positive impact. Please include all potential impacts over the lifetime of a project and provide an explanation.</p>	<p>Positive impact (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p>No impact (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p>Negative impact (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p>Explain why will it have this effect and over what timescale?</p> <p>Where possible/relevant please include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes over and above business as usual Evidence or measurement of effect Figures for CO₂e Links to relevant documents 	<p>Explain how you plan to mitigate any negative impacts.</p>	<p>Explain how you plan to improve any positive outcomes as far as possible.</p>	
<p>Minimise greenhouse gas emissions e.g. reducing emissions from travel, increasing energy efficiencies etc.</p>	<p>Emissions from travel</p>			<p>X</p>	<p>The issue of school transport is difficult to analyse as parental and student preference and behaviour plays a large role in the level of emissions from travel. For example, the local authority can maintain a sixth form provision in one school but the popularity of a neighbouring provider can encourage car use even in scenarios where a school within walking distance is available. Similarly even for schools located within walking distance some parents or students may choose to drive to school each day. Many schools operate travel plans which encourage low carbon transport options such as walking and cycling.</p> <p>In the particular case of the proposed closure of the sixth form at Wensleydale School there are currently no students on roll and it is to be presumed that most of the students in</p>	<p>Where possible Integrated Passenger Transport will choose vehicles and routes to minimise traffic. Neighbouring schools will be encouraged and supported to develop sustainable travel plans.</p>	<p>Schools will continue to encourage sustainable methods of transport where safe and possible. For example by encouraging lift sharing, walking to school as part of developing their travel plans.</p> <p>Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College, Darlington runs a minibus service from Leyburn at the beginning and end of the school day for sixth form students and there is also public transport to Richmond School and</p>

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				<p>catchment are now making vehicular journeys to neighbouring post 16 providers. Closing the sixth form may result in learners travelling further to access post 16 provision.</p>		<p>Darlington College. Students attending post-16 courses in Darlington have tended to travel into Leyburn on public transport and then catch the College bus provided by Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College.</p> <p>Local authorities do not have to provide free or subsidised post 16 travel assistance but do have a duty to prepare and publish an annual transport policy statement specifying the arrangements for the</p>

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						<p>provision of transport, or other support that the authority considers it necessary to make to facilitate the attendance of all persons of sixth form age receiving education or training. This is set out in North Yorkshire Council's Post 16 Transport Policy Statement. The Council provides transport assistance for students to enable them to access Post 16 education at an appropriate sixth form or further education college designated to serve the</p>

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							<p>area where a student lives. Transport will be offered to eligible students in return for a contribution towards the cost of this transport, which will help minimise individual car journeys.</p>
Emissions from construction		X			N/A	N/A	N/A
Emissions from running of buildings		X			The school would continue to run their 11-16 education provision across the whole of the existing site and its buildings.		
Emissions from data storage		X			N/A		

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Other							
Minimise waste : Reduce, reuse, recycle and compost e.g. reducing use of single use plastic		X					
Reduce water consumption		X		The school would continue to run their 11-16 education provision across the whole of the existing site and its buildings.			
Minimise pollution (including air, land, water, light and noise)		X		The school would continue to run their 11-16 education provision across the whole of the existing site and its buildings.			
Ensure resilience to the effects of climate change e.g. reducing flood risk, mitigating effects of drier, hotter summers		X		N/A			

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Enhance conservation and wildlife		X		N/A		
Safeguard the distinctive characteristics, features and special qualities of North Yorkshire's landscape		X		N/A		
Other (please state below)						

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

N/A

Summary Summarise the findings of your impact assessment, including impacts, the recommendation in relation to addressing impacts, including any legal advice, and next steps. This summary should be used as part of the report to the decision maker:

This proposal has some negative environmental impacts. There is likely to be a negative impact associated with some increased use of vehicles to transport the students to and from other post 16 providers. Ultimately there is an overriding consideration in this proposal to provide the best outcome for the education of students in the local area and no other educationally sustainable option has been identified.

Sign off section

This climate change impact assessment was completed by: Mark Ashton

Name	Mark Ashton
Job title	Strategic Planning Officer
Service area	Strategic Planning
Directorate	CYPS
Signature	Amanda Newbold
Completion date	23/12/24

Authorised by relevant Assistant Director (signature): Amanda Newbold

Date: 24/12/24