

**North Yorkshire Council  
Thirsk and Malton Area Committee**

**27 March 2026**

**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 Thirsk & Malton committee area.

**2.0 Local educational landscape**

2.1 As of 31 August 2025 there was a total of 62 schools and academies within the Thirsk and Malton Committee area. The table below shows the number of schools and academies in both the county as a whole and the committee area by school type.

|                               | <b>Schools in North<br/>Yorkshire</b> |              | <b>Schools in<br/>Thirsk &amp; Malton AC</b> |              |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|--|--------------|
| Primary Maintained            | 158                                   | 53.6%        | 28   | 51.9%        |
| Primary Academy & Free School | 137                                   | 46.4%        | 26   | 48.1%        |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>295</b>                            | <b>100%</b>  | <b>54</b>                                    | <b>100%</b>  |
| Secondary Maintained          | 12                                    | 28.6%        | 1  | 14.3%        |
| Secondary Academy             | 30                                    | 71.4%        | 6  | 85.7%        |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>42</b>                             | <b>100%</b>  | <b>7</b>                                     | <b>100%</b>  |
| Special Maintained            | 5                                     | 50%          | 1  | 100%         |
| Special Academy               | 5                                     | 50%          | 0  | 0%           |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>10</b>                             |              | <b>1</b>                                     | <b>100%</b>  |
| PRU Maintained                | 4                                     | 80%          | 0  |              |
| PRU Academy                   | 1                                     | 20%          | 0  |              |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>5</b>                              |              | <b>0</b>                                     | <b>100%</b>  |
| <b>Total maintained</b>       | <b>179</b>                            | <b>50.9%</b> | <b>30</b>                                    | <b>48.4%</b> |
| <b>Total Academy</b>          | <b>173</b>                            | <b>49.1%</b> | <b>32</b>                                    | <b>51.6%</b> |
| <b>Overall Total</b>          | <b>352</b>                            |              | <b>62</b>                                    | <b>100%</b>  |

**3.0 School standards**

**3.1 School Ofsted judgements**

From September 2024, inspections of state-funded schools no longer include a judgement on overall effectiveness. The judgements for the 4 areas inspected under the previous inspection framework, as at 31 August 2025, are shown in the tables below:

% Good or Outstanding

#### Quality of Education

|                   | Primary | Secondary | Special |
|-------------------|---------|-----------|---------|
| National          | 86%     | 73%       | 77%     |
| North Yorkshire   | 90%     | 72%       | 83%     |
| Thirsk and Malton | 87%     | 83%       | 100%    |

#### Behaviour and Attitudes

|                   | Primary | Secondary | Special |
|-------------------|---------|-----------|---------|
| National          | 96%     | 85%       | 89%     |
| North Yorkshire   | 96%     | 72%       | 83%     |
| Thirsk and Malton | 92%     | 83%       | 100%    |

#### Personal Development

|                   | Primary | Secondary | Special |
|-------------------|---------|-----------|---------|
| National          | 98%     | 89%       | 91%     |
| North Yorkshire   | 98%     | 83%       | 100%    |
| Thirsk and Malton | 95%     | 83%       | 100%    |

#### Effectiveness of Leaders

|                   | Primary | Secondary | Special |
|-------------------|---------|-----------|---------|
| National          | 91%     | 82%       | 84%     |
| North Yorkshire   | 95%     | 80%       | 100%    |
| Thirsk and Malton | 93%     | 86%       | 100%    |

Similarly, 97% (30 of 31) 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 97% at the same time.

### 3.2 Attainment overall

In primary schools, performance across North Yorkshire in the Early Years (Early Years Foundation Stage Profile) has continued to be above national benchmarks. Attainment of children at Key Stage 2 fell slightly this year but is still above the national level. In secondary schools the percentage of pupils achieving a grade 5 or above in both English and maths (Basics) improved in 2025 and is now 4.1% higher than national.

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

In 2025, 69.5% 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 a lower proportion of pupils within the committee area achieved a good level of development compared with all NYC pupils but the proportion is above the national comparable figure.

| Early Years Foundation Stage Profile – percentage achieving a good level of development |                   |             |          |
|---|-------------------|-------------|----------|
|   | Thirsk and Malton | North Yorks | National |
| 2022  | 66.5%             | 68.3%       | 65.2%    |
| 2023  | 69.3%             | 70.3%       | 67.2%    |
| 2024  | 70.4%             | 71.2%       | 67.7%    |
| 2025  | 69.5%             | 70.6%       | 68.3%    |

### 3.4 Key Stage 2

In 2025, 60.8% (5.8% more than last year) of children in the committee area achieved the expected standard in reading, writing and maths, which is higher than both the North Yorkshire and national comparable figures. 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. |                   |             |          |
|---|-------------------|-------------|----------|
|   | Thirsk and Malton | North Yorks | National |
| 2022  | 59.4%             | 56.6%       | 58.9%    |
| 2023  | 56.1%             | 56.1%       | 60.0%    |
| 2024  | 55.0%             | 58.2%       | 61.3%    |
| 2025  | 60.6%             | 59.6%       | 62.1%    |

### 3.5 Key Stage 4

The average Attainment 8 score, which measures the achievement of a pupil across eight qualifications, was 46.9 for the committee area in 2024. This is slightly above the North Yorkshire average and the national comparable figure.

| Key Stage 4 - Average Attainment 8 Score |                   |             |          |
|--|-------------------|-------------|----------|
|  | Thirsk and Malton | North Yorks | National |
| 2022                                     | 49.6              | 50.3        | 48.8     |
| 2023                                     | 46.8              | 46.8        | 46.3     |
| 2024                                     | 46.6              | 46.8        | 45.9     |
| 2025                                     | 46.9              | 46.5        | 46.1     |

The percentage achieving a GCSE grade 5 or above (grading is 9-1) in English and Maths (Basics measure) was 49.5% for the committee area in 2025. This is above the national and the North Yorkshire comparable figure.

| Key Stage 4 - Percentage achieving a grade 5 or above in English and Maths |                   |             |          |
|--|-------------------|-------------|----------|
|  | Thirsk and Malton | North Yorks | National |
| 2022   | 52.1%             | 53.8%       | 49.8%    |
| 2023   | 45.8%             | 46.0%       | 45.3%    |
| 2024   | 46.7%             | 47.7%       | 45.9%    |
| 2025   | 49.5%             | 46.8%       | 45.4%    |

### 3.6 Not in education, employment or training

There were 925 young people recorded in Year 11 living in the committee area in May 2025 and of this cohort 15 (1.8%) were not in education, employment or training after leaving school as of January 2025. The figure is above the overall North Yorkshire figure of 1.6% for the same period.

## 4.0 Suspension Incidents and Permanent Exclusions

### 4.1 Suspension Incidents

In the 2024/25 academic year, there have been a total of 9566 suspensions for a total of 2808 individual children in North Yorkshire, 457 of these children were on roll of mainstream schools in the Thirsk and Malton committee area.

| Suspension Incidents |                  |                                |  |                   |                                |   |  |  |
|----------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|--|-------------------|--------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Academic year        | Pupils suspended |                                |  | Total Suspensions |                                |   | Reason for suspension                              |  |
|                      | North Yorkshire  | Thirsk and Malton (mainstream) | Percentage of North Yorkshire total (pupils) | North Yorkshire   | Thirsk and Malton (mainstream) | Percentage of North Yorkshire total (incidents) | Most common reason (Thirsk and Malton)             | Most common reason (North Yorkshire)               |
| 2018/19              | 2149             | 302                            | 14%  | 5970              | 828                            | 13.87%  | Persistent disruptive behaviour (47.8%)            | Persistent or general disruptive behaviour (48.7%) |
| 2019/20              | 1578             | 246                            | 16%  | 4365              | 757                            | 17.34%  | Persistent or general disruptive behaviour (63.5%) | Persistent or general disruptive behaviour (48.2%) |
| 2020/21              | 1578             | 221                            | 14%  | 3553              | 543                            | 15.28%  | Persistent or general disruptive behaviour (55.4%) | Persistent or general disruptive behaviour (40.0%) |
| 2021/22              | 2046             | 305                            | 15%  | 5197              | 915                            | 17.61%  | Persistent or general disruptive behaviour (48.5%) | Persistent or general disruptive behaviour (45.5%) |
| 2022/23              | 2753             | 391                            | 14%  | 7639              | 1200                           | 16%   | Persistent or general disruptive behaviour (48.1%) | Persistent or general disruptive behaviour (48.2%) |
| 2023/24              | 3114             | 485                            | 16%  | 9960              | 1713                           | 17%   | Persistent or general disruptive behaviour (59.3%) | Persistent or general disruptive behaviour (53.4%) |
| 2024/25              | 2808             | 457                            | 16%  | 9566              | 1608                           | 17%   | Persistent or general disruptive behaviour (62.6%) | NY: Persistent disruptive behaviour (56.7%)        |

In 2024/25, schools in the committee area had a 15% share of the total schools' population in North Yorkshire and had a 17% share of suspensions for the whole county.

#### 4.2 Permanent exclusions

In 2024/25, there were 123 permanent exclusions from all schools in the county, 25 of which were for children in Thirsk and Malton mainstream schools.

| Academic year | Thirsk and Malton | North Yorkshire | Percentage of North Yorkshire total |
|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2018/19       | 15                | 87              | 17%                                 |
| 2019/20       | 9                 | 51              | 17.65%                              |
| 2020/21       | 4                 | 26              | 15.38%                              |
| 2021/22       | 7                 | 55              | 12.73%                              |
| 2022/23       | 23                | 96              | 24%                                 |
| 2023/24       | 19                | 121             | 16%                                 |
| 2024/25       | 25                | 123             | 20%                                 |

In 2024/25, schools in the committee area had a 15% share of the total schools' population in North Yorkshire and had a 20% 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. Schools also have a responsibility to monitor attendance and exclusions of pupils.

A new Inclusive Mainstream Toolkit has been launched by NYC to support educational professionals in the planning for and meeting the needs of children and to prevent exclusion from the educational process.

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 December 2025, there were 893 children in the committee area with a North Yorkshire funded EHC plan, which equated to 14% of the North Yorkshire total. The most common needs are:

- Autism (38%)
- Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH, 20%)
- Speech Language and Communication (SLCN, 16%)

As of January 2025, there were 1596 children in the committee area with SEN Support in North Yorkshire schools, which equated to 15% of the North Yorkshire total. The most common needs are:

- Speech, Language and Communication (SLCN, 22%)
- Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH, 21%)
- Specific Learning Difficulties (e.g. Dyslexia, 20%)

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

Requests for Education, Health and Care plans (EHC plans) remain at a high level.

The 2024/25 academic year saw 1220 requests for assessment for an EHC plan received, which was very similar to the number received in 2023/24 (1196) and 2022/23 (1263). 156 (13%) were for children or young people living in the committee area in 2024/25, a decrease from the 169 in 2023/24.

Significant work has been undertaken to improve and maintain the timeliness of conducting statutory assessment of children and young people's special educational needs.

## **5.3 SEND provision**

The Council's ambition for children and young people with SEND is set out in the Local Area SEND Strategy 2023-2026. Key to the strategy is making sure that children have the opportunity to achieve good outcomes, attend a school close to home where they can make friends and connections in their local community and be prepared for a fulfilling adult life.

Whilst the SEND system nationally and locally remains challenging, the council continues to work proactively to support children and families to have their needs identified and met. The number of children identified as having SEND, is continuing to rise rapidly.

The council has a duty to keep its SEN provision under review and build capacity so that children with SEN can access suitable provision. Recently the council have worked with partners and schools to develop the Inclusive Mainstream Toolkit to support practitioners in meeting needs of children in mainstream settings. The council has a well-developed capital programme that is in the process of being reviewed and updated. Current commitments include strengthening the offer in mainstream schools through rolling out Targeted Mainstream Provision (TMP) as well as creating more special school places across the county and improving existing facilities for children.

In the Thirsk and Malton constituency there has been capital investment that has created two Targeted Mainstream Provisions which are operational at Thirsk School and Norton Community Primary School. Further work is underway to roll out more of these provisions in the area with 3 more schools having expressed an interest. Applications from schools have been requested by the end of April in order for the council to progress this development. Additionally, Welburn Hall School has continued to increase the number of places it provides to the locality and beyond.

## 6.0 Elective Home Education

### Total EHE

As of the beginning of the 2025/26 academic year there were 1257 children recorded as Electively Home Educated (EHE) in North Yorkshire, 205 (16.3%) of which were formerly from a mainstream school in the Thirsk and Malton committee area. At the same point last year, there were 1125 children EHE in North Yorkshire, including 189 (16.8%) formerly from a mainstream school in the committee area.

| Academic Year | Thirsk & Malton beginning of academic year | Percentage of Total North Yorkshire EHE | Total North Yorkshire EHE |
|---------------|--|---|---------------------------|
| 24/25         | 189  | 16.8%                                   | 1125                      |
| 25/26         | 205  | 16.3%                                   | 1257                      |

In 2025/26, schools in the committee area had a 15% share of the total schools' population in North Yorkshire and had a 16.3% share of electively home educated children and young people for the whole county.

### Becoming EHE

In the 2024/25 academic year, 888 children became EHE in North Yorkshire, 163 of which were formerly educated in a mainstream school in the Thirsk and Malton committee area. This figure in the previous academic year (2023/24) was 129 from the committee area out of 821 becoming EHE in North Yorkshire.

Parents have the offer of a pre-decision meeting to ensure that they fully understand their legal obligations. Furthermore, school staff and governing bodies have the opportunity to access training to support children who are not engaging in education.

The Children's Wellbeing Bill has raised plans for increased responsibilities and powers for LAs regarding the EHE process, as part of multi-agency involvement in the safeguarding of children.

## 7.0 School Finance

### 7.1 2024/2025 School Revenue Balances

Local Authority maintained school revenue balances as at 31 March 2025 are summarised below, together with a comparison with 2024. The balances are also expressed as a percentage of school delegated budgets.

|   | <b>Primary &amp; Nursery</b><br><br>143 schools | <b>Secondary</b><br><br>12 schools | <b>Special</b><br><br>5 schools | <b>Pupil Referral Unit</b><br><br>4 schools | <b>Total</b><br><br>164 schools |
|---|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| Total School Revenue Balances (Net) as at 31 March 2025                     | £13,863k  | £158k                              | -£1,549k                        | £907k                                       | <b>£13,379k</b>                 |
| % of Revenue Budget   | 12.0%   | 0.3%                               | -14.4%                          | 35.7%                                       | <b>7.3%</b>                     |
| No. Schools with an Accumulated Revenue Budget Surplus as at 31 March 2025  | 121   | 8                                  | 4                               | 4   | <b>137</b>                      |
| No. Schools with an Accumulated Revenue Budget Deficit as at 31 March 2025  | 22  | 4                                  | 1                               | 0   | <b>27</b>                       |
| <i>Comparison to total school revenue balance (net) as at 31 March 2024</i> | <i>+£152k</i>                                   | <i>+£902k</i>                      | <i>+£119k</i>                   | <i>+£97k</i>                                | <b><i>+£728k</i></b>            |

(The number of school budgets submitted to the local authority for 2024/25 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)

27 schools (16% of LA Maintained schools) had an accumulated revenue budget deficit totalling £5.6M as at 31 March 2025. 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 2025 | 22                           | 4                | 1              | 0                          | <b>27</b>       |
| Total School Revenue Deficit Balances as at 31 March 2025                  | -£1,360k                     | -£2,290k         | -£1,956k       | N/A                        | <b>-£5,606k</b> |
| Average Value of Accumulated Revenue Budget Deficit as at 31 March 2025    | -£62k                        | -£573k           | -£1,956k       | N/A                        | <b>-£208k</b>   |
| Highest Accumulated Revenue Budget Deficit as at 31 March 2025             | -£237k                       | -£969k           | -£1,956k       | N/A                        | <b>-£1,956k</b> |
| Lowest Accumulated Revenue Budget Deficit as at 31 March 2025              | -£1.3k                       | -£229k           | -£1,956k       | N/A                        | <b>-£1.3k</b>   |

## 7.2 School Budget Projections - Based on 2025/26 Start budgets

The 2025/26 Start Budgets submitted to the local authority by schools in May 2025 are summarised below:

|   | <b>Primary &amp; Nursery</b><br><br>142 schools | <b>Secondary</b><br><br>12 schools | <b>Special</b><br><br>5 schools | <b>Pupil Referral Unit</b><br>4 schools | <b>Total</b><br><br>163 schools |
|---|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| Total Forecast School Revenue Balances (Net) as at 31 March 2026                    | £9,728k   | -£1,456k                           | -£1,871k                        | £670k                                   | <b>£7,071k</b>                  |
| No. Schools with an Accumulated Forecast Revenue Budget Surplus as at 31 March 2026 | 122   | 5                                  | 3                               | 3                                       | <b>133</b>                      |
| Average Value of Accumulated Forecast Revenue Budget Surplus as at 31 March 2026    | £94k  | £263k                              | £86k                            | £233k                                   | <b>£103k</b>                    |
| No. Schools with an Accumulated Forecast Budget Deficit as at 31 March 2026         | 20  | 7                                  | 2                               | 1                                       | <b>30</b>                       |
| Average Value of Accumulated Forecast Revenue Budget Deficit as at 31 March 2026    | -£87k   | -£396k                             | -£1,064k                        | -£31k                                   | <b>-£222k</b>                   |
| <i>Comparison to total school revenue balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025</i>  | <i>-£4,135k</i>                                 | <i>-£1,614k</i>                    | <i>-£322k</i>                   | <i>-£237k</i>                           | <b><i>-£6,308k</i></b>          |

(The overall number of individual school budgets have reduced from 164 to 163 between the 2024/25 and 2025/26 financial years due to 14 schools converting to academy status and 2 schools closing).

## 7.3 School Finance and Funding Issues

- The Department for Education (DfE) usually publishes the National Funding Formula (NFF) allocation in July to help schools with their planning as early as possible, however the DfE stated that this was not possible due to the timing of the multi-year Spending Review concluding in June 2025. Outline 2026-27 NFF funding information was provided in mid-November 2025 with indicative allocations expected later in Autumn 2025.
- The DfE have confirmed that there are no structural changes to the schools NFF for 2026-27, with no changes to the NFF factors and how they operate compared to 2025-26. The NFF factor values will broadly increase by c2% for the 2026-27 financial year.

The DfE have prescribed that local authorities are required to set the minimum funding guarantee (MFG) protection between minus 0.5% and 0% for the 2026-27 financial year. The overall funding requirement for 2026-27 school budgets, and the associated affordability within the 2026-27 schools block DSG funding provision, cannot be finalised until the actual 2026-27 schools block DSG allocation is received in December 2025

- School budgets have experienced significant cost pressures in the 2025/26 financial year, this position is expected to continue for the 2026/27 financial year. Cost pressures include:
  - Below forecast inflation increases in school funding provided by Government for the 2024/25 and 2025/26 financial years
  - 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 £6,849 per pupil in 2025-26 compared to a national average of £7,450. Comparing the funding for a 1,500 pupil secondary school this equates to a difference in funding of £0.9m. The funding for North Yorkshire primary schools is more favourable with a position 35 out of 151 local authorities in terms of the funding level per pupil. For primary schools, a North Yorkshire school will receive on average £5,812 per pupil compared to a national average of £5,704. 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,
  - meetings are held with the headteacher and Chair of Governors of schools forecasting an accumulated budget deficit in either the current or the next financial year, where no financial recovery is forecast to discuss the actions planned by the school to address the forecast budget deficit
  - 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 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.

## 7.5 Schools Financial Position – Thirsk & Malton

### 2024/25

24 schools in budget surplus as at 31 March 2025.

3 schools in deficit by March 2025; 11% of schools in Thirsk & Malton (2 primary, 1 special)

Average primary surplus = £99k  
Average secondary surplus = £96k  
Average special surplus = N/A

Average primary deficit = -£19k  
Average secondary deficit = N/A  
Average special deficit = -£1,956k

(Data Source – 2024/25 Consistent Financial Reporting (CFR))

### 2025/26

22 schools projecting to be in budget surplus as at 31 March 2026.

5 schools projecting to be in deficit by March 2026; 16% of schools in Thirsk & Malton (3 primary, 1 secondary, 1 special)

Projected average primary surplus = £69k  
Projected average secondary surplus = N/A  
Projected average special surplus = N/A

Projected average primary deficit = -£38k  
Projected average secondary deficit = -£241k  
Projected average special deficit = -£2,120k

(Data Source – 2025/26 Start 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 2022 to 31 August 2025 there were eleven closures in the county, of which the following two occurred in the committee area:

- Hovingham CE (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School, closed with effect from 31 March 2023; and
- St Hilda's Ampleforth CE (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School, closed with effect from 31 August 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.

The strategic planning of school places is undertaken on the basis of 'planning areas,' which represent groups of associated schools which are aligned in terms of issues such as geography, transport links and patterns of parental preference. The council previously considered the strategic planning of primary school places via a total of 58 planning which had developed over a significant period.

A review of the former planning areas was undertaken during 2025 arising, in part, from criticisms of their relevance during the annual reporting to Area Committees during the 2025 annual reporting round. In January 2026, the DfE approved an application from the council to implement revised planning areas via which the future monitoring and planning of primary school places will be undertaken.

The planning areas utilised by the council for the purpose of forecasting secondary school places have not been amended and remain as previously reported.

Appendix 1 shows the planning areas that were in use for the Thirsk and Malton Committee area as at 31 August 2025, together with: -

- The schools and academies in each area
- Capacity in the planning area
- Current numbers on roll
- Projected future numbers
- Projected impact of approved housing developments

The Council's pupil number forecasts indicate that the total number of pupils attending schools and academies within North Yorkshire will decline by 3.6% between 2024-2025 and 2029-30. The decline in pupil numbers is not, however, expected to be consistent across the county; arising from higher levels of housing development it is expected that a small number of areas in the county may experience an increase in the demand for school places whilst in other areas the decline in pupil numbers is forecast to be significantly in excess of the forecast average rate of decline.

The area covered by the Thirsk and Malton Area Committee is largely characterised by rural villages, which are served by small schools. The declining birth rate combined with other demographic changes means that several 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, including in federations.

The area also has areas where there is a significant amount of new housing development, including within Easingwold, Thirsk, Malton and Norton.

The council regularly reviews its forecasts of pupil numbers, taking account of both the birth rate and the additional number of new pupils that are expected to arise from the development of new housing.

In those areas where new housing is proposed, and which is forecast to result in there being a shortfall of school places then the council seeks developer contributions (in the form of both Section 106 and CIL) towards the cost of providing those additional places.

### **8.3 School Organisation Issue**

On 17 March the Executive Member for Education, Learning and Skills will consider a report seeking approval to consult publicly on school organisation proposals to transfer the responsibility of Special Resourced provision in the form of Targeted Mainstream Provision (TMP) from the Hambleton and Richmond Pupil Referral Service (PRS) to Thirsk School and Sixth Form.

### **9.0 Recommendation**

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| <p><b>9.1</b> That Members note the report on educational factors in the Thirsk and Malton committee area.</p> |
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## APPENDIX 1

### Planning Areas and forecast surplus/shortfall school places – as of 31 August 2025

- 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 below assume all outstanding housing permissions are built out over a five-year period, but do not include 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.

| School planning area   | Places available as of 2024/2025 | Number on Roll 2020/2021 | Number on roll 2024/2025 | Surplus Capacity 2024/2025 | Forecast pupils as of 2029/2030 | Projected Pupils from current housing permissions until 2029/2030 | Forecast/ Surplus capacity 2029/30 |
|--|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| *School located in a neighbouring committee area   |                                  |                          |                          |                            |                                 |   |                                    |
| <b>PRIMARY</b>   |                                  |                          |                          |                            |                                 |   |                                    |
| <b>Thirsk</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Saints Catholic Primary School, a Catholic Voluntary Academy</li> <li>• Sowerby Primary Academy</li> <li>• Thirsk CP</li> <li>• Keeble Gateway Academy</li> </ul>   | 899                              | 623                      | 645                      | 254                        | 624                             | 43  | 232                                |
| <b>Thirsk Outer Area</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alanbrooke Academy</li> <li>• Carlton Miniott Primary Academy</li> <li>• Knayton CE Academy</li> <li>• Sessay CE VC Primary</li> <li>• South Kilvington CE Academy</li> <li>• Topcliffe CE Academy</li> <li>• Pickhill CE Primary*</li> <li>• Dishforth CE Primary*</li> </ul> | 912                              | 819                      | 756                      | 156                        | 689                             | 30  | 193                                |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>1811</b>                      | <b>1442</b>              | <b>1401</b>              | <b>410</b>                 | <b>1313</b>                     | <b>73</b>   | <b>425</b>                         |

|   |             |             |             |            |            |           |            |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| <b>Easingwold</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Easingwold CP</li> </ul>   | 297         | 248         | 302         | -5         | 287        | 36        | -26        |
| <b>Easingwold Outer Area</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outwood Primary Academy Alne</li> <li>• Crayke CE VC Primary</li> <li>• Forest of Galtres Anglican/Methodist Primary</li> <li>• Huby CE</li> <li>• Husthwaite CE</li> <li>• Linton on Ouse Primary</li> <li>• Sheriff Hutton Primary</li> <li>• Stillington Primary</li> <li>• Sutton on the Forest CE</li> </ul> | 1025        | 766         | 708         | 317        | 687        | 49        | 289        |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>1322</b> | <b>1014</b> | <b>1010</b> | <b>312</b> | <b>974</b> | <b>85</b> | <b>263</b> |

| <b>School planning area</b>  | Places available as of 2024/2025 | Number on Roll 2020/2021 | Number on roll 2024/2025 | Surplus Capacity 2024/2025 | Forecast pupils as of 2029/2030 | Projected Pupils from current housing permissions until 2029/2030 | Forecast/Surplus capacity 2029/30 |
|--|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| *School located in a neighbouring committee area   |                                  |                          |                          |                            |                                 |   |                                   |
| <b>Filey Primary</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Filey Junior</li> <li>Filey CE Nursery &amp; Infants Academy</li> </ul>                             | 548                              | 448                      | 419                      | 129                        | 341                             | 11  | 196                               |
| <b>Filey Outer Area</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hertford Vale CE VC Primary</li> <li>Hunmanby Primary</li> <li>Sherburn CE VC Primary</li> </ul> | 441                              | 387                      | 338                      | 103                        | 275                             | 12  | 154                               |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>989</b>                       | <b>835</b>               | <b>757</b>               | <b>232</b>                 | <b>616</b>                      | <b>23</b>   | <b>350</b>                        |

|  |             |             |             |            |             |           |            |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-----------|------------|
| <b>Malton &amp; Norton</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amotherby CP</li> <li>Malton Primary Academy</li> <li>Norton CP</li> <li>St Mary's Catholic Primary School - a Catholic voluntary academy</li> </ul>  | 1344        | 1201        | 1104        | 240        | 1011        | 258       | 308        |
| <b>Malton &amp; Norton Outer Area</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Foston CE VC Primary</li> <li>Langton Primary</li> <li>Leavening CP</li> <li>Luttons CP</li> <li>Rillington CP</li> <li>Sand Hutton CE VC Primary</li> <li>Settrington All Saint's CE VC</li> <li>Slingsby CP</li> <li>Terrington CE VA</li> <li>Warthill CE</li> <li>Welburn CP</li> <li>West Heslerton CE</li> </ul> | 941         | 789         | 745         | 196        | 650         | 19        | 272        |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>2285</b> | <b>1990</b> | <b>1849</b> | <b>436</b> | <b>1661</b> | <b>44</b> | <b>580</b> |

|  |             |             |             |            |             |           |            |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-----------|------------|
| <b>North Ryedale Primary Area</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Helmsley CP</li> <li>Kirkbymoorside CP</li> <li>Pickering Community Infant</li> <li>Pickering Community Junior</li> <li>St Joseph's Catholic Primary School - a Catholic voluntary academy</li> </ul>      | 990         | 777         | 728         | 262        | 726         | 18        | 246        |
| <b>North Ryedale Primary Outer Area</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gillamoor CE</li> <li>Nawton CP</li> <li>Rosedale Abbey CP</li> <li>Sinnington CP</li> <li>Thornton Dale CE</li> <li>St Benedict's Catholic Primary School - a Catholic voluntary academy</li> </ul> | 570         | 451         | 453         | 117        | 423         | 7         | 140        |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>1560</b> | <b>1228</b> | <b>1181</b> | <b>379</b> | <b>1149</b> | <b>25</b> | <b>386</b> |

| <b>School Planning Area</b>   | Places available as of 2024/2025 | Number on Roll 2020/2021 | Number on roll 2024/2025 | Surplus Capacity 2024/2025 | Forecast pupils as of 2029/2030 | Projected Pupils from current housing permissions until 2029/2030 | Forecast/ Surplus capacity 2029/30 |
|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| *School located in a neighbouring committee area  |                                  |                          |                          |                            |                                 |   |                                    |
| <b>Boroughbridge Primary Outer Area</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dishforth Airfield CP*</li> <li>• Great Ouseburn CP*</li> <li>• Green Hammerton CE*</li> <li>• Kirk Hammerton CE*</li> <li>• Marton-cum-Grafton CE</li> <li>• Nun Monkton Primary*</li> <li>• St Peter's Brafferton CE</li> <li>• Staveley CP*</li> </ul> | <b>816</b>                       | 566                      | 581                      | 235                        | 629                             | 31  | 156                                |
| <b>Northallerton Primary Outer Area</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ainderby Steeple CE*</li> <li>• Appleton Wiske CP*</li> <li>• Brompton CP*</li> <li>• East Cowton CE*</li> <li>• Great Smeaton Academy*</li> <li>• Kirkby Fleetham CE*</li> <li>• Osmotherley Primary*</li> <li>• South Otterington CE</li> </ul>         | 813                              | 577                      | 549                      | 264                        | 468                             | 98  | 247                                |

| <b>SECONDARY</b>  |      |     |      |     |     |    |     |
|---|------|-----|------|-----|-----|----|-----|
| <b>Thirsk</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thirsk School &amp; Sixth Form</li> </ul> | 1227 | 934 | 1008 | 219 | 923 | 24 | 280 |

|   |      |      |      |     |      |    |     |
|---|------|------|------|-----|------|----|-----|
| <b>Central Ryedale</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Malton School</li> <li>• Norton College</li> </ul> | 1908 | 1727 | 1744 | 164 | 1544 | 12 | 352 |
|---|------|------|------|-----|------|----|-----|

|   |      |     |     |     |     |    |     |
|---|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|
| <b>Easingwold</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outwood Academy Easingwold</li> </ul> | 1268 | 642 | 770 | 498 | 946 | 28 | 294 |
|---|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|

|   |      |      |      |     |      |   |     |
|---|------|------|------|-----|------|---|-----|
| <b>North Ryedale</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lady Lumley's School,</li> <li>• Ryedale School</li> </ul> | 1974 | 1676 | 1430 | 544 | 1234 | 8 | 732 |
|---|------|------|------|-----|------|---|-----|

|  |     |     |     |     |     |   |     |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|-----|
| <b>Filey</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Filey School</li> </ul> | 761 | 420 | 469 | 292 | 482 | 4 | 275 |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|-----|