

## Notice of a public meeting of

### Decision Session - Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education

**To:** Councillor Webb

**Date:** Tuesday, 6 February 2024

**Time:** 10.00 am

**Venue:** The Thornton Room - Ground Floor, West Offices (G039)

## AGENDA

### Notice to Members – Post Decision Calling In:

Members are reminded that, should they wish to call in any item\* on this agenda, notice must be given to Democratic Services by **5:00 pm** on **Tuesday, 13 February 2024**.

\*With the exception of matters that have been the subject of a previous call in, require Full Council approval or are urgent, which are not subject to the call-in provisions. Any called in items will be considered by the Corporate Services, Climate Change and Scrutiny Management Committee.

Written representations in respect of items on this agenda should be submitted to Democratic Services by **5.00 pm** on **Friday, 2 February 2024**.

**1. Declarations of Interest** (Pages 1 - 2)

At this point in the meeting the Executive Member is asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest, or other registerable interest, they might have in respect of business on this agenda, if they have not already done so in advance on the Register of Interests. The disclosure must include the nature of the interest.

An interest must also be disclosed in the meeting when it becomes apparent to the member during the meeting.

[Please see attached sheet for further guidance for Members].

**2. Minutes** (Pages 3 - 4)

To approve and sign the minutes of the Decision Session held on **Monday, 15 January 2024.**

**3. Public Participation**

At this point in the meeting members of the public who have registered to speak can do so. Members of the public may speak on agenda items or on matters within the remit of the committee. Please note that our registration deadlines have changed to 2 working days before the meeting, in order to facilitate the management of public participation at meetings. The deadline for registering at this meeting is **5:00pm on Friday, 2 February 2024.**

To register to speak please visit [www.york.gov.uk/AttendCouncilMeetings](http://www.york.gov.uk/AttendCouncilMeetings) to fill in an online registration form. If you have any questions about the registration form or the meeting, please contact Democratic Services. Contact details can be found at the foot of this agenda.

**Webcasting of Public Meetings**

Please note that, subject to available resources, this meeting will be webcast, including any registered public speakers who have given their permission. The meeting can be viewed live and on demand at [www.york.gov.uk/webcasts](http://www.york.gov.uk/webcasts).

**4. Free Discretionary Transport to Tadcaster Grammar School** (Pages 5 - 110)

The Executive Member is asked to take a decision about phased removal of free discretionary transport to Tadcaster Grammar School following the public consultation on the proposal.

**5. Urgent Business**

Any other business which the Executive Member considers urgent under the Local Government Act 1972.

Democratic Services Officer

Reece Williams

Contact Details:

- Telephone – (01904) 55 4447
- Email – [reece.williams@york.gov.uk](mailto:reece.williams@york.gov.uk)

For more information about any of the following please contact the Democratic Services Officer responsible for servicing this meeting:

- Registering to speak
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports and
- For receiving reports in other formats

Contact details are set out above.

**This information can be provided in your own language.**

我們也用您們的語言提供這個信息 (Cantonese)

এই তথ্য আপনার নিজের ভাষায় দেয়া যেতে পারে। (Bengali)

Ta informacja może być dostarczona w twoim własnym języku. (Polish)

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)

یہ معلومات آپ کی اپنی زبان (بولی) میں بھی مہیا کی جاسکتی ہیں۔ (Urdu)

 **(01904) 551550**

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**Declarations of Interest – guidance for Members**

- (1) Members must consider their interests, and act according to the following:

<b>Type of Interest</b>	<b>You must</b>
Disclosable Pecuniary Interests	Disclose the interest, not participate in the discussion or vote, and leave the meeting <u>unless</u> you have a dispensation.
Other Registrable Interests (Directly Related) <b>OR</b> Non-Registrable Interests (Directly Related)	Disclose the interest; speak on the item <u>only if</u> the public are also allowed to speak, but otherwise not participate in the discussion or vote, and leave the meeting <u>unless</u> you have a dispensation.
Other Registrable Interests (Affects) <b>OR</b> Non-Registrable Interests (Affects)	Disclose the interest; remain in the meeting, participate and vote <u>unless</u> the matter affects the financial interest or well-being: (a) to a greater extent than it affects the financial interest or well-being of a majority of inhabitants of the affected ward; and (b) a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest. In which case, speak on the item <u>only if</u> the public are also allowed to speak, but otherwise do not participate in the discussion or vote, and leave the meeting <u>unless</u> you have a dispensation.

- (2) Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to the Member concerned or their spouse/partner.
- (3) Members in arrears of Council Tax by more than two months must not vote in decisions on, or which might affect, budget calculations, and must disclose at the meeting that this restriction applies to them. A failure to comply with these requirements is a criminal offence under section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

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City of York Council

Committee Minutes

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Meeting	Decision Session - Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education
Date	15 January 2024
Present	Councillor Webb
Officers in Attendance	Martin Kelly – Corporate Director, Children’s and Education Maxine Squire – Assistant Director, Education and Skills (Remote) Rachelle White – School Admissions Manager Claire Roberts – School Place Planning Officer

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#### **5. Declarations of Interest (10:02am)**

The Executive Member was asked to declare, at this point in the meeting, any personal interests, not included on the Register of Interests, or any prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interests that he might have had in respect of business on the agenda. The Executive Member declared that he was a teacher at an academy in York.

#### **6. Minutes (10:03am)**

Resolved:

That the minutes of the decision session held on 15 March 2023 be approved and signed by the Executive Member as a correct record.

#### **7. Public Participation (10:03am)**

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak at the session under the Council’s Public Participation Scheme.

**8. Admissions Arrangements for the 2025/2026 School Year  
(10:03am)**

The School Admissions Manager presented the report and it was;

Resolved:

That the Executive Member approved the proposed changes to the Admission Arrangements for September 2025-2026 based on the evidence shown in the Options Analysis and Evidential Basis section of the report.

Reason:

To ensure that City of York Council continued to meet their statutory duty as set out in the terms of the Education Act 1996 and also worked collaboratively with Academy Trusts to meet that duty whilst also appreciating the financial pressure on schools and trusts currently.

Cllr Webb, Chair

[The meeting started at 10.02 am and finished at 10.07 am].





<b>Meeting:</b>	Decision Session Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education
<b>Meeting date:</b>	6 February 2024
<b>Report of:</b>	Martin Kelly, Corporate Director of Children and Education
<b>Portfolio of:</b>	Councillor Bob Webb, Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education

## **Decision Report: Free Discretionary Transport to Tadcaster Grammar School**

### **Subject of Report**

1. The Executive Member for Children and Young People is asked to take a decision about phased removal of free discretionary transport to Tadcaster Grammar School following the public consultation on the proposal. This concerns legacy provision of free transport to a non-York school and does not affect SEND eligibility or pupils currently in receipt of the service.

### **Benefits and Challenges**

2. The benefits of the proposal are that:
  - 2.1 The Council of the City of York (the “**Council**”) will deliver previously agreed savings if a decision is made to remove free transport.
  - 2.2 The removal of discretionary free transport to Tadcaster Grammar School would be consistent with previous decisions that removed free transport to faith schools in the city. This would ensure that there is consistent application of the decisions not to maintain discretionary free transport.

- 2.3 Tadcaster Grammar School is an out of area school. The provision of transport to Tadcaster Grammar School is an historic commitment and the removal of discretionary transport provides the opportunity to address this as it is an anomaly within the provision of home to school transport by the Council.
- 2.4 It does not impact on parental choice as parents can continue to apply for places at Tadcaster Grammar School.
3. The challenges of the proposal are that:
  - 3.1 In the short term there may be a pressure on school places in York. Overall, beyond 2025 there should be enough school places, but this may not always result in children living out of catchment being able to attend their first preference school. However, children from Copmanthorpe and Bishopthorpe do have priority access to Millthorpe School.
  - 3.2 An increased pressure on numbers at secondary schools in York may require additional capital investment to create new places. However, the capital cost is not a charge to the general fund as it would be the DfE Capital Fund that would be used.
  - 3.3 If discretionary transport is removed, the operator may increase the concessionary fare to be in line with current contract costs to ensure the route was still viable. If the route was no longer viable and ceased to run then there is no guarantee of seats to accommodate these children on a public service route.
  - 3.4 There is a risk there would be no provider willing to bid for the Tadcaster Grammar School contract due to the reduction in numbers in the future.
  - 3.5 There may be a reduction in overall level of savings if children living more than 3-miles from the nearest suitable school which is not their catchment school become eligible for transport.

## Policy Basis for Decision

4. Education and Skills: High Quality Skills and Learning for All.
  - Getting eligible children and young people to and from school each day via the Council's home to school transport arrangements is a key part of the Local Authority's education responsibilities. The responsibility is to make arrangements to the nearest suitable school.
5. Transport: Sustainable Accessible Transport for All.
  - The options available for getting eligible children and young people to school each day need to be considered in terms of the environmental impact of those options. It is essential therefore that the Council encourages active travel, use of public transport, shared transport, and sets targets around the types of vehicles used to transport children and young people around the city where it is able to. It also enables the council to work with transport providers in partnership to cut congestion, pollution, and carbon emissions.

## Financial Strategy Implications

6. The bus contract for transport to Tadcaster Grammar School is funded from the Local Authority's General Fund budget. The current contracted cost, for the academic year 2023/24, is £187,000. Given the current, and projected, financial position of the Council it is essential that all options to reduce non-statutory and discretionary expenditure are carefully examined. Any saving from the phased withdrawal of this service will be spread over 5 academic years (6 financial years), with the full saving achieved from September 2029.

## Recommendation and Reasons

7. The Executive Member is asked to approve **Option 2** for the phased removal of free discretionary transport to Tadcaster Grammar School from September 2025 in order to achieve previously agreed savings.

8. The Executive Member is asked to approve amending the wording in the current policy for home to school transport and the Guide For Parents as follows:
- a) Children who live more than 3-miles (using the shortest, safe walking route) from and are attending a catchment area school within York.
9. **Reason:** To achieve agreed savings targets, whilst ensuring that parents are able that to make an informed choice about school places from the year prior to admission to secondary school.

## Background

10. The Council has significant savings to deliver which were agreed at Full Council in February 2022:

<b>Savings agreed in February 2022</b>	<b>2022/23 Impact £000</b>	<b>2023/24 Impact £000</b>	<b>Total Saving Impact £000</b>
<b>PEO01: Home to School Transport. Alongside contract efficiencies explore a policy change which encourages the use of personal transport budgets by the majority and provides targeted support for families on low incomes following an assessment of need.</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>250</b>
<b>PEO02: Home To School Transport. Undertake a consultation to identify possible changes to the universal provision of discretionary transport to mainstream Children and Young people. Savings would be phased over 5 academic years. It is not proposed to remove transport from pupils currently receiving it.</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>49</b>

11. The contracts for Home to School dedicated coach services are currently held by York Pullman Ltd. The contract for Tadcaster Grammar School costs £187,000 per annum. At their meeting on 17 March 2022, the Executive agreed to extend these contracts until August 2024, and this was in response to the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and to allow adequate time to review the Tadcaster bus contract.
12. The current school admission policy sets out that for secondary school education most addresses in York are in the catchment area of one secondary school. The only exceptions to this are:
  - a) The village of Bishopthorpe and Acaster Malbis, which are in the catchment area of Fulford School, Millthorpe School and Tadcaster Grammar School, and;
  - b) The village of Copmanthorpe, which is in the catchment area of Millthorpe School and Tadcaster Grammar School, and;
  - c) The villages of Askham Bryan and Askham Richard, which are in the catchment area of York High School and Tadcaster Grammar School.
13. Whilst the above villages are within City of York Local Authority area, North Yorkshire Council have historically included these villages within the catchment area for Tadcaster Grammar School located in North Yorkshire Local Authority area. Tadcaster Grammar School is 9.5 miles from the village of Copmanthorpe whereas Millthorpe School is 4.2 miles. The STAR Multi-Academy Trust is the admission authority for Tadcaster Grammar School.
14. Although Tadcaster Grammar School will remain as a catchment school for the villages, the York catchment schools are much nearer. For example, the distance measured from Copmanthorpe to Millthorpe School is approximately 4.2 miles whereas Tadcaster Grammar School is 9.5 miles. For Bishopthorpe the nearest catchment school is approximately 2.4 miles whereas Tadcaster Grammar School is 10.9 miles.

15. The local authority is not responsible for the cost of transport where:
  - a) Parental preference results in a pupil being placed in a school or facility other than the nearest appropriate schools; and
  - b) To schools maintained by other authorities where admission to those schools is a result of parent preference unless that school is the nearest school.
16. In the case of Tadcaster Grammar School this is parental preference.
17. The removal of free discretionary transport requires a lead in time so that parents who could be affected are able to apply using the amended and published Home to School Transport Policy in order to make an informed choice from the year prior to admission to secondary school. Therefore, the earliest any change could take effect is for those children who begin applying for a secondary school place in Autumn 2024, ready for admission in September 2025.
18. The removal of free discretionary transport would be phased in over a five-year period beginning September 2025 so that children and young people who started attending Tadcaster Grammar School under the previous arrangement can complete their secondary education to the end of Year 11.

## Existing Contract and Student Numbers

19. The current contract with York Pullman Ltd. provides 4-coaches and any spare places are offered as concessionary fares to families who are non-catchment at a cost of £495 per annum. Currently there are 34-non catchment pupils and 25-Year 12 and 13 students who purchase their concessionary passes directly from York Pullman Ltd.

Academic Year	Number of eligible pupils	Cost
2019-2020	253	£153,628
2020-2021	249	£154,396
2021-2022	228	£159,028
2022-2023	221	£183,674
2023-2024	224	£186,800

20. Currently there is 1 child with an Education, Health and Care Plan (“**EHCP**”) and 6-children entitled to Free School Meals in receipt of free discretionary transport to Tadcaster Grammar School.

## Pupil Projections

21. Copmanthorpe is in Millthorpe School catchment area and Manor CE Academy Priority Admissions Zone as well as Tadcaster Grammar School catchment area. The current planned admission number at Millthorpe School is 212. Including the number of children who may no longer choose Tadcaster Grammar if there is no discretionary transport, the maximum forecast Year 7 of 214 in 2025/26 is the only one which exceeds this, suggesting that there will be places at Millthorpe for all children living in catchment who choose to apply. Manor CE Academy is also forecast to have surplus places available from 2025/26 onwards. Some applications to Millthorpe from other catchment areas may be displaced. Whilst responses to the consultation raise concerns about space in York schools there are already surplus places in 3 York secondary

schools and further surplus places will become available from 2025 onwards as smaller cohorts from primary start Year 7.

22. Bishopthorpe is in Fulford and Millthorpe School catchment areas as well as Tadcaster Grammar School. Fewer children currently attend Tadcaster Grammar School, with the majority attending Fulford School. The Planned Admission Number at Fulford has recently been increased to 300. Even if all children living in Bishopthorpe were to attend Fulford instead of Tadcaster Grammar, it is forecast there will be sufficient places for all children in catchment.
23. An analysis of school place modelling is attached at **Annex C**.
24. Consideration should also be given to two developments in Copmanthorpe which are currently awaiting determination by local planners. Developer contributions have been requested in both cases based on only a third of the children going to Millthorpe and are projected to generate a total secondary pupil yield of 39 (8 per year group).
25. Capital work may be needed to create additional classrooms to fulfil any expected demand. However, the removal of transport would be phased in, and the capital cost is not a charge to the general fund as it would be DfE Basic Need Capital Funding that would be used, subject to remaining availability (at present an amount of approximately £4,000,000 has been received and not been allocated to any schemes, with no further funding expected for 2023/24 and 2024/25).

## Consultation Analysis

### Process

26. On 7 November the Executive Member agreed to begin a consultation process for phased removal of free discretionary transport. An online survey opened on 13<sup>th</sup> November and ran until 20 December 2023. All affected children, parents and other key stakeholders affected by the proposed changes were invited to respond.
27. Over 652-responses were received, and a summary of survey results is attached at **Annex D**.



28. As part of the consultation a public meeting led by the Executive Member was held at Copmanthorpe Primary School on 28 November 2023 and local authority officers were in attendance. Approximately 40 parents attended the event, and a summary of the key discussion points is attached at **Annex E**.
29. Consultation responses have also been received from:
- STAR Multi-Academy Trust and Tadcaster Grammar School;
  - Julian Sturdy, MP York Outer;
  - Headteacher and Governors of Copmanthorpe Primary School;
  - North Yorkshire Council.
30. These are attached in full at **Annexes F to J**.

### **Considerations**

31. Parents of new starters for September 2025 onwards would be advised that they can purchase concessionary fares direct from the provider if they wish their child to attend Tadcaster Grammar School.
32. By including information in the Guide for Parents about the affected addresses within the CYC area that are within the Tadcaster Grammar School catchment area and information on transport eligibility parents will have all of the necessary information available to them when making choices about school provision. This means that CYC can agree to the request by North Yorkshire Council to include this information.
33. The prospect of being able to secure a place at the time of applying for a school place must be a realistic one for parents. All secondary schools in York are now judged by Ofsted to be 'good' or 'outstanding' so parents should be able to secure a good school place within the York area and the Published Admission Number for Fulford School has been increased following capital works to accommodate more children. However, pressure from In Year admissions for children moving into the city has increased and has reduced places that may previously have been available.
34. Parents would still be able to apply for Tadcaster Grammar School but would no longer receive discretionary transport from the

Council. The current concessionary fare for Years 11 and 12 and some other children travelling from Acomb on this route is £495. To ensure the route is still viable it is possible in future the operator may need to increase the concessionary fare up to around £875 per annum per child as numbers of eligible children reduce. Copmanthorpe children could travel on Coastliner at suitable times but not Bishopthorpe children unless parents can arrange for them to be at the appropriate bus pick up point. It should be borne in mind that there is no guarantee of spaces or capacity on public service routes to accommodate these children.

35. Potentially if the route was no longer under contract, the transport provider could withdraw the Tadcaster Grammar School route if it was no longer financially viable due to pupil numbers or other rising costs at any time during the 5 years or later, and if there were no public service routes available the current pupils attending the school at that time would need to be admitted to a York School. There would be places for Copmanthorpe children at Millthorpe School but may be increased pressure on school places for other children who would not be allocated this school as a first preference.
36. The current provider contract is due to be renewed from September 2024. There is a risk that there would be no provider willing to bid for the Tadcaster Grammar School contract due to the reduction in numbers in the future.
37. There may be a greater number of school admission appeals for South Bank Multi Academy Trust as the admission authority for Millthorpe School if children could not be placed in the school due to it being oversubscribed.
38. Free discretionary transport would be removed for new starters, including in years, from September 2025 and therefore the support would be phased out over a 5-year period. Younger siblings due to start after September 2025 would also not receive free discretionary transport.
39. Following the consultation feedback a large number of respondents raised concerns about the affordability of sending younger siblings to Tadcaster Grammar School and concerns about the practicalities of getting siblings to different schools if they are no longer eligible.

40. Taking into consideration the feedback about siblings option 2 has been included to enable siblings living in the catchment area and currently attending a primary school to follow older siblings by offering an allowance of £495 towards their concessionary fare until the older sibling reaches the end of Year 11 (compulsory school age). This allowance would end for all those siblings at the latest by 2028/29 which is the end of the phasing out period for removal of free discretionary home to school transport to Tadcaster Grammar School.
41. If the option to provide transport for siblings of older pupils is agreed, this would ease any possible pressure on places in 2025/26 as more surplus places are forecast to be available in the following years.
42. It should be noted that North Yorkshire Council are also seeking to make savings on home to school transport and are proposing to consult on reviewing 'discretionary' elements of their transport policy. This shows the significant financial pressures that all LAs are facing with the need to review discretionary areas of spend.

## **Options Analysis and Evidential Basis**

### **Option 1 – Agree to the phased removal of free discretionary transport to Tadcaster Grammar School from September 2025.**

43. By approving Option 1 the savings would be achieved as set out in **Annex K.**

**Option 2 – Agree to the phased removal of free discretionary transport to Tadcaster Grammar School from September 2025 and provide an allowance of £495 for siblings living in the catchment area and currently attending a primary school to follow older siblings. This would be a contribution towards their concessionary fare until the older sibling reaches the end of Year 11 (compulsory school age). This allowance would end for all those siblings at the latest by 2028/29 which is the end of the phasing out period for removal of free discretionary home to school transport to Tadcaster Grammar School.**

44. The figure of £495 is based on the current concessionary fare which parents of non-entitled pupils pay for their children to travel on the existing transport service to Tadcaster Grammar School. By

approving Option 2 this could reduce the savings set out in paragraph 6, but full savings would be achieved from September 2029. Also, it addresses concerns raised during the consultation about affordability of sending siblings to Tadcaster Grammar School where they have more than one child. It also eases any possible pressure on places for 2025/26 as set out in paragraph 41.

### **Option 3 – Do nothing**

45. This would mean the agreed savings are not achieved.

## **Organisational Impact and Implications**

### **Financial Implications**

46. The bus contract with York Pullman Ltd. for transport to Tadcaster Grammar School is funded from the Local Authority's General Fund budget. The current contracted cost, for the academic year 2023/24, is £187,000. However, this is expected to increase over the next few years as pupil numbers rise. The saving from the phased withdrawal of this service will be spread over 5 academic years (6 financial years), with the full saving achieved from September 2029. The actual profile of savings will be dependent on parental school admissions choices over the academic years from 2025/26 onwards.
47. There will be additional costs to the transport budget if parents choose to send their children to a York school once free transport to Tadcaster Grammar School ceases. However, as the average cost of transport to York schools is cheaper than the current cost of transporting a pupil to Tadcaster Grammar School, even if all Tadcaster Grammar School catchment area pupils divert to a York school, then a saving within the transport budget should still be generated.
48. The current average cost per pupil per year for transport to Tadcaster Grammar School is £838. This compares to the annual cost of a bus pass for travel within York of £228, and an average council provided transport cost from the Tadcaster Grammar School catchment area to eligible York schools of £650 per pupil.

49. It is difficult to accurately model the impact of the recommendation as it will be dependent on parental preference, and potential variations to the current contract cost as eligible pupil numbers requiring funded transport to Tadcaster Grammar School reduce over the implementation period. However, to assist in the decision making, a range of scenarios estimating the potential transport saving are set out in the table below, with more detail included at Annex K.

	<b>2025/26 Estimated Saving £000</b>	<b>2026/27 Estimated Saving £000</b>	<b>2027/28 Estimated Saving £000</b>	<b>2028/29 Estimated Saving £000</b>	<b>2029/30 Estimated Saving £000</b>
Minimum Saving	17	40	72	110	165
Mid Level Saving	21	48	84	125	185
Higher Level Saving	27	59	100	147	212
Maximum Saving	35	69	116	169	239

50. The estimated savings set out in this table and detailed in Annex K are based on Option 1. Under Option 2, if all eligible siblings take up the option of a place at Tadcaster Grammar School and request concessionary fare funding, the possible savings above in each of the first 4 years could be reduced by between £7,000 to £12,000, with the final savings in 2029/30 unchanged as the offer would end at that point.
51. The pupil place planning projections set out in the report suggest that there is capacity in existing York schools to accommodate any additional pupils displaced from Tadcaster Grammar School, therefore additional capital costs are expected to be minimal. However, in the event that some capital expenditure is required it would not be a charge to the general fund as it would be funded by DfE provided Basic Need Capital Grant. To date an amount of approximately £4m is available that has not yet been allocated to any schemes.
52. Individual York schools that are required to accommodate extra pupils will receive additional revenue funding through the Schools Block allocation within the ring-fenced Dedicated Schools Grant each year from the DfE. The current average funding allocation for York secondary schools is £6,187 per pupil per year. Therefore, if all current York pupils attending Tadcaster Grammar were to divert to a York school, c£1.4m of additional DSG funding would be allocated to York.

53. **Human Resources (HR)**

54. There are no HR implications.

**Legal**

55. The recommendations in this report relate to non-statutory functions which are currently provided by the Council under their discretionary powers under section 508C of the Education Act 1996 to provide transport for children who are not entitled to free transport under the Act.

56. The proposals outlined in this report will have an impact on the Council's current contract with York Pullman Limited for Home-to-School transport to Tadcaster Grammar, and any subsequent contract entered into once the incumbent contract expires.

57. The current contract with York Pullman Ltd. is currently due to expire on 31 July 2024 without any option to extend beyond this point. Any extension to this contract into the 5-year period commencing in September 2024 must be by way of a Variation that would also factor in the gradual decommissioning of free discretionary transport to Tadcaster Grammar School.

58. Before agreeing to any such Deed of Variation, both the Legal Services and Commercial Procurement teams should be consulted well in advance of the current expiry date on 31 July 2024, to ensure that any such Variation is properly drafted in accordance with:

- a. The terms and conditions of the contract;
- b. Our statutory obligations regarding the modification of public contracts under Regulation 72 of the Public Contract Regulations 2015 (if applicable), and;
- c. Rule 20.2 of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules ("**CPRs**"), as set out in Appendix 11 of the current constitution;

And any deed of variation would need to be completed before the expiry date on 31 July 2024.

59. There is a risk that because any such variation would be subject to the agreement between the Council and York Pullman Ltd. York Pullman Ltd. are not obligated to accept such a variation. If they were to refuse or an agreement could not be reached on the terms of such a variation, then the contract would lapse. At which point, as outlined earlier in the report, we would be out of contract and York Pullman Ltd. could then at any time remove these routes if they determined that they were no longer viable without additional funding from the Council. However, it should be noted that York Pullman Ltd. have indicated that a variation would be acceptable.
60. If the current contract with York Pullman Ltd. is not to be extended and modified when it expires on 31 July 2024, then subject to the Procurement implications set out in this report below any replacement contract must be commissioned following a robust and compliant procurement method in line with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 (if applicable) and the Council's CPRs, in consultation with the Commercial Procurement team, and with sufficient lead time ahead of the expiry of the current contract on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024 to ensure adequate time to run a full and proper tender process in line with the Council's obligations.
61. Further, any new contract must be drafted and concluded with advice and input from the Legal Services team and must be drafted in such a way that addresses the decommissioning of the gradual decommissioning of free discretionary transport to Tadcaster Grammar School over the 5-year period commencing in September 2025. Again, Legal Services will need to be instructed sufficiently ahead of time before any tender for a new contract goes out to market.
62. Further to the Procurement implications set out below, the risk here is that a revised contract that sets out the gradual reduction of the service may not appeal to the market, resulting in very few and/or no tenders being returned and the process having to be abandoned due to a lack of competition. This would then allow the Council to negotiate a contract directly with a potential provider, provided that the initial conditions of the contract that was originally advertised are not substantially altered as per Regulation 31(1)(a) of the Public Contract Regulations 2015.
63. If the bus contract in force from time-to-time (whether this is with York Pullman Ltd. or a replacement provider) is to be terminated in

the future as a result of these proposals, both Legal Services and Commercial Procurement should be consulted:

- d. To ensure that the contract is properly terminated in accordance with its terms and conditions,
  - e. To ensure wherever possible that any required notice period under the contract is factored into the timetable for the remaining decommissioning of this service, and
  - f. To ensure that the termination is done in accordance with Rule 21.1 of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules, as set out in Appendix 11 of the current constitution.
64. Finally, if any capital works would be needed at any York schools to create additional classrooms to fulfil any expected demand as a result of these proposals, then subject to there being sufficient budget to carry out such works these must also be commissioned following a robust and compliant procurement method in line with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 (if applicable) and the Council's CPRs, and will require advice and input from Legal Services on any contract to be entered into for said works. Further, any programme of works must account for the planned decommissioning of the discretionary services and (as far as reasonably practicable) and anticipated spike in demand from prospective pupils and parents.

## **Procurement**

65. Any proposed works or services must be commissioned via a compliant procurement route under the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and where applicable, the Public Contract Regulations 2015. All tenders will need to be conducted in an open, fair, and transparent way to capture the key principles of procurement. Further advice regarding the procurement routes, strategies and markets must be sought from the Commercial Procurement team.
66. Before proceeding with a Variation, both Commercial Procurement and Legal Services must be consulted prior to the expiry date of the contract. All Variations will be drafted and presented as per the terms and conditions and will be subject to the council's Contract Procedure Rules.



## **Health and Wellbeing**

67. There are not direct health implications however there is a potential effect on the continuity of education which can have a negative health impact on the individual. Mitigation by the phasing of the plans, and the freeing of resource which can be used in other areas to support health and wellbeing of Children and Young People in York balances the potential risk to health and wellbeing.

## **Environment and Climate Action**

68. There is a risk that the phasing out of free discretionary transport for pupils to Tadcaster Grammar School may be replaced with an increase in private vehicle miles if pupils are individually driven to the school. The phased approach to removal of free discretionary travel mitigates this risk, and active and sustainable travel options should be promoted to students and parents. Should parents choose to pay for commercial services this would be better for the environment.
69. CYC is currently consulting on a local Transport Strategy which continues to place and prioritise sustainable transport modes at the top of modal hierarchy. The Councils Bus Service Improvement Plan seeks to develop Park and Ride sites as multi modal hubs aiding travel both into and out of the city in a range of sustainable way. It also has funding for measures that will reduce bus journey times.

## **Affordability**

70. There were no affordability implications of instigating a consultation. If the savings are implemented, whilst the reports says there are currently no low income families, the cost of the concessionary fare may be an unaffordable cost for some families in the future which is likely to influence the parental decision on the chosen school for their children.

## **Equalities and Human Rights**

71. The Council recognises, and needs to take into account its Public Sector Equality Duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 (to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other prohibited conduct;

advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it and foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it in the exercise of a public authority's functions).

72. An **Equalities Impact Assessment ("EIA")** has been carried out and is annexed to this report at **Annex A**.
73. In summary, the result of the EIA is that there is provision of home to school transport for eligible children and young people to ensure they are able to attend a York school. The phasing in of the removal of free discretionary transport means that children and young people currently receiving this transport can complete their secondary education at Tadcaster Grammar School. New starters from September 2025 who are eligible for transport to a City of York school will receive free statutory provision. They will be able to attend a City of York secondary school where they will receive education in good or outstanding provision.

### **Data Protection and Privacy**

74. Please see **Annex B**.

### **Communications**

75. There are unlikely to be any demands on the Communications Service, beyond handling any related media enquiries.

### **Economy**

76. There are no economy implications beyond those already highlighted in the report.

### **Risks and Mitigations**

77. The risks are about sufficiency of places in York. The Local Authority sufficiency planning demonstrates that overall, beyond 2025 there should be enough school places for the affected children, but this may not always result in other children being able to attend their first preference school. In addition, any savings from ending free discretionary transport are likely to result in an additional cost around providing home to school transport to children coming back into York.

78. There is also a risk of exposing the business model of York Pullman Ltd if the service moved to concessionary fares leading to it being unviable without additional financial support. As volumes decrease during the phasing out of free discretionary transport this may again add risk to the viability of the service. It should be noted that from August 2026 all operators will be expected to comply with Public Service Vehicles Accessibility Regulations (“**PSVAR**”) so that all vehicles have low floors and wheelchair lifts. Currently statutory Home to School Transport services is exempt but this may change by 2026. The costs of refurbishment and purchasing newly adapted vehicles will be at a cost which may add further pressure on the business model as vehicles are used for both statutory and non-statutory services.

### **Wards Impacted**

79. The wards impacted are Copmanthorpe, Bishopthorpe and Rural West.

## Contact details

For further information please contact the authors of this Decision Report.

**Author:** Barbara Mands, Head of Education Support Service  
[Barbara.mands@york.gov.uk](mailto:Barbara.mands@york.gov.uk);

<b>Name:</b>	Martin Kelly
<b>Job Title:</b>	Corporate Director of Children and Education
<b>Service Area:</b>	Children's Services and Education
<b>Telephone:</b>	01904 555612
<b>Report approved:</b>	Yes
<b>Date:</b>	26 January 2024

**Co-author:** Helen Garnham, Children and Young People Transport Manager  
[helen.garnham@york.gov.uk](mailto:helen.garnham@york.gov.uk)

<b>Name:</b>	Maxine Squire
<b>Job Title:</b>	Assistant Director, Education and Skills
<b>Service Area:</b>	Children's Services and Education
<b>Telephone:</b>	01904 553007
<b>Report approved:</b>	Yes
<b>Date:</b>	26 January 2024

## Background papers

Decision Report – Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education, Tuesday 7 November 2023 – Free Discretionary Transport to Tadcaster Grammar School.

## Annexes

Annex A - Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

Annex B - Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) - As there is no personal data, special categories of personal data or criminal offence data being processed, there is no requirement to complete a DPIA.

This is evidenced by completion of DPIA screening questions under the reference: AD-02474

Annex C – Tadcaster Bus Removal: School Place Modelling

Annex D – Summary Analysis of Consultation Survey Responses

Annex E – Summary of Public Meeting 28 November 2023

Annex F – Full response from STAR Multi-Academy Trust

Annex G – Full response from Tadcaster Grammar School

Annex H – Full response from Julian Sturdy MP, York Outer

Annex I - Full response from Governors of Copmanthorpe Primary School

Annex J – Full response from North Yorkshire Council

Annex K – Modelling of Indicative Transport Savings Scenario

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**City of York Council**  
**Equalities Impact Assessment**

**Who is submitting the proposal?**

<b>Directorate:</b>	People		
<b>Service Area:</b>	Education Support Service		
<b>Name of the proposal :</b>	Removal of Free Discretionary Transport to Tadcaster Grammar School		
<b>Lead officer:</b>	Barbara Mands, Head of Education Support Service		
<b>Date assessment completed:</b>	20/12/2023		
<b>Names of those who contributed to the assessment :</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Job title</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Area of expertise</b>
Barbara Mands	Head of Education Support Service	CYC	Education Support Services
Helen Garnham	Children and Young People Transport Manager	CYC	Children and Young People's transport

**Step 1 – Aims and intended outcomes**

<b>1.1</b>	<b>What is the purpose of the proposal?</b> Please explain your proposal in Plain English avoiding acronyms and jargon.
	<p>The Executive Member for Children and Young People is asked to take a decision about phased removal of free discretionary transport to Tadcaster Grammar School following the public consultation on the proposal. . This concerns legacy provision of free transport to a non-York school and does not affect SEND eligibility or pupils currently in receipt of the service.</p> <p>This ensures the elected member is informed about the implications to inform his decision making and that the process is consistent with the removal of other areas of free discretionary transport carried out previously.</p> <p>1.</p>



<b>1.2</b>	<b>Are there any external considerations?</b> (Legislation/government directive/codes of practice etc.)
	<p>The council is required to provide home to school transport for primary age children who live over 2 miles from their nearest school and for secondary age children who live over 3 miles away from their nearest school. This is to meet the duty in the 1996 Education Act. The act requires local authorities to provide transport to eligible children free of charge to support attendance at school.</p> <p>The council is not responsible for the cost of transport where;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Parental preference results in a pupil being placed in a school or facility other than the nearest appropriate schools;</li><li>• To schools maintained by other authorities where admission to those schools is a result of parental preference, unless that schools is the nearest school.</li></ul> <p>In the case of Tadcaster Grammar School this is parental preference.</p>

<b>1.3</b>	<b>Who are the stakeholders and what are their interests?</b>
	<p>The key stakeholders are ;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North Yorkshire County Council regarding the removal of free discretionary transport to Tadcaster Grammar School.</li> <li>• STAR MAT and Tadcaster Grammar School where children currently attend.</li> <li>• Primary Schools where children attend from the York villages of Bishopthorpe, Copmanthorpe, Askham Richard and Askham Bryan.</li> <li>• Parents of pupils currently in receipt of the service attending Tadcaster Grammar School.</li> <li>• The children and young people who are being transported to facilitate their attendance at Tadcaster Grammar School, the preferred school.</li> </ul>
<b>1.4</b>	<b>What results/outcomes do we want to achieve and for whom?</b> This section should explain what outcomes you want to achieve for service users, staff and/or the wider community. Demonstrate how the proposal links to the Council Plan (2019- 2023) and other corporate strategies and plans.
	<p>The implementation of a decision for a phased removal of free discretionary transport to Tadcaster Grammar School which will achieve previously agreed savings. It will be consistent with the removal of other areas of free discretionary transport carried out previously.</p> <p>The proposal links to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education and Skills: High Quality Skills and Learning for All. Children and Young People will be able access a good or outstanding secondary school in York. Getting eligible children and young people to and from school each day via the Council's home to school transport arrangements is a key part of the Local Authority's education responsibilities. It is important therefore that any service is reliable, safe and cost effective.</li> <li>• Transport: Sustainable Accessible Transport for All. Getting Around Sustainably as it may cut congestion, pollution and carbon emissions if children are attending a York school.</li> <li>• Economy and Good Employment: A fair, thriving, green economy for all . Well paid jobs and an inclusive economy as the use of local transport provides jobs within the local area and benefits the local economy.</li> </ul>

**Step 2 – Gathering the information and feedback**

<p><b>2.1</b></p>	<p><b>What sources of data, evidence and consultation feedback do we have to help us understand the impact of the proposal on equality rights and human rights?</b> Please consider a range of sources, including: consultation exercises, surveys, feedback from staff, stakeholders, participants, research reports, the views of equality groups, as well your own experience of working in this area etc.</p>	
<p><b>Source of data/supporting evidence</b></p>	<p><b>Reason for using</b></p>	
<p><b>Public Consultation Survey, public meeting and feedback from other key stakeholders.</b></p>	<p>To gather opinion from current users and other stakeholders about the phased removal of free discretionary transport proposal.</p>	

**Step 3 – Gaps in data and knowledge**

<b>3.1</b>	<b>What are the main gaps in information and understanding of the impact of your proposal? Please indicate how any gaps will be dealt with.</b>		
<b>Gaps in data or knowledge</b>		<b>Action to deal with this</b>	
Change in parental preference is difficult to predict. It is unknown how many parents will choose to send their children to a York school if discretionary transport is removed to Tadcaster grammar school.		On going monitoring of annual admissions process and in year transfers.	

**Step 4 – Analysing the impacts or effects.**

<b>4.1</b>	<b>Please consider what the evidence tells you about the likely impact (positive or negative) on people sharing a protected characteristic, i.e. how significant could the impacts be if we did not make any adjustments? Remember the duty is also positive – so please identify where the proposal offers opportunities to promote equality and/or foster good relations.</b>		
<b>Equality Groups and Human Rights.</b>	<b>Key Findings/Impacts</b>	<b>Positive (+) Negative (-) Neutral (0)</b>	<b>High (H) Medium (M) Low (L)</b>
<b>Age</b>	The provision of home to school transport to York schools for eligible children ensures they are able to attend school	+	L
<b>Disability</b>	The home to school bus contracts use compliant vehicles	+	L
<b>Gender</b>			

**ANNEX A**

<b>Gender Reassignment</b>			
<b>Marriage and civil partnership</b>			
<b>Pregnancy and maternity</b>			
<b>Race</b>			
<b>Religion and belief</b>			
<b>Sexual orientation</b>			
<b>Other Socio-economic groups including :</b>	<b>Could other socio-economic groups be affected e.g. carers, ex-offenders, low incomes?</b>		
<b>Carer</b>			
<b>Low income groups</b>	<b>Eligible children are provided with home to school transport</b>	<b>+</b>	
<b>Veterans, Armed Forces Community</b>			
<b>Other</b>			
<b>Impact on human rights:</b>			
List any human rights impacted.	<b>The right to Education</b>	<b>+</b>	

**Use the following guidance to inform your responses:**

Indicate:

- Where you think that the proposal could have a POSITIVE impact on any of the equality groups like promoting equality and equal opportunities or improving relations within equality groups
- Where you think that the proposal could have a NEGATIVE impact on any of the equality groups, i.e. it could disadvantage them
- Where you think that this proposal has a NEUTRAL effect on any of the equality groups listed below i.e. it has no effect currently on equality groups.

It is important to remember that a proposal may be highly relevant to one aspect of equality and not relevant to another.

<p><b>High impact</b> (The proposal or process is very equality relevant)</p>	<p>There is significant potential for or evidence of adverse impact The proposal is institution wide or public facing The proposal has consequences for or affects significant numbers of people The proposal has the potential to make a significant contribution to promoting equality and the exercise of human rights.</p>
<p><b>Medium impact</b> (The proposal or process is somewhat equality relevant)</p>	<p>There is some evidence to suggest potential for or evidence of adverse impact The proposal is institution wide or across services, but mainly internal The proposal has consequences for or affects some people The proposal has the potential to make a contribution to promoting equality and the exercise of human rights</p>
<p><b>Low impact</b> (The proposal or process might be equality relevant)</p>	<p>There is little evidence to suggest that the proposal could result in adverse impact The proposal operates in a limited way The proposal has consequences for or affects few people The proposal may have the potential to contribute to promoting equality and the exercise of human rights</p>

**Step 5 - Mitigating adverse impacts and maximising positive impacts**

5.1	<p><b>Based on your findings, explain ways you plan to mitigate any unlawful prohibited conduct or unwanted adverse impact. Where positive impacts have been identified, what is been done to optimise opportunities to advance equality or foster good relations?</b></p>
<p>The proposal will ensure that statutory home to school transport continues to be provided at an efficient and effective cost. This means that children are able to attend a good or outstanding school within the city of York Area and if they are eligible they will receive free statutory transport to a York school. The phasing in of the removal of free discretionary transport means that children currently receiving free discretionary transport can complete their secondary education at Tadcaster Grammar School.</p>	

**Step 6 – Recommendations and conclusions of the assessment**

6.1	<p><b>Having considered the potential or actual impacts you should be in a position to make an informed judgement on what should be done. In all cases, document your reasoning that justifies your decision. There are four main options you can take:</b></p>
<p>- <b>No major change to the proposal</b> – the EIA demonstrates the proposal is robust. There is no potential for unlawful discrimination or adverse impact and you have taken all opportunities to advance equality and foster good relations, subject to continuing monitor and review.</p>	



- **Adjust the proposal** – the EIA identifies potential problems or missed opportunities. This involves taking steps to remove any barriers, to better advance quality or to foster good relations.
- **Continue with the proposal** (despite the potential for adverse impact) – you should clearly set out the justifications for doing this and how you believe the decision is compatible with our obligations under the duty
- **Stop and remove the proposal** – if there are adverse effects that are not justified and cannot be mitigated, you should consider stopping the proposal altogether. If a proposal leads to unlawful discrimination it should be removed or changed.

**Important:** If there are any adverse impacts you cannot mitigate, please provide a compelling reason in the justification column.

<b>Option selected</b>	<b>Conclusions/justification</b>
Continue with the proposal	The savings have been previously agreed by the council. The current service is a legacy service and alternative arrangements can be put in place for children to access school places in York. The provision of transport is discretionary and the proposal is consistent with the previous decisions to end discretionary transport to faith schools.

**Step 7 – Summary of agreed actions resulting from the assessment**

<b>7.1</b>	<b>What action, by whom, will be undertaken as a result of the impact assessment.</b>
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<b>Impact/issue</b>	<b>Action to be taken</b>	<b>Person responsible</b>	<b>Timescale</b>

**Step 8 - Monitor, review and improve**

<b>8. 1</b>	<p><b>How will the impact of your proposal be monitored and improved upon going forward?</b>          Consider how will you identify the impact of activities on protected characteristics and other marginalised groups going forward? How will any learning and enhancements be capitalised on and embedded?</p>
	<p>New starters from September 2025 who are eligible for transport to a York School will receive free statutory provision. They will be able to attend a City of York secondary school where they will receive education in a good or outstanding provision.</p>

DPIA

Free Discretionary Transport to Tadcaster Grammar school

As there is no personal data, special categories of personal data or criminal offence data being processed, there is no requirement to complete a DPIA.

This is evidenced by completion of DPIA screening questions under the reference: AD-02474

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### Tadcaster Bus Removal: School Place Modelling

One possible consequence of removing funded home to school transport for children in York who live in catchment for Tadcaster Grammar School is that parents will no-longer opt for a place at Tadcaster but will instead request a place at a school in York, for which transport is funded. In addition to Tadcaster Grammar School, Copmanthorpe is also in catchment for Millthorpe School and is in the priority area for Manor Academy. The majority of children living in this area choose Tadcaster Grammar School.

Similarly, children living in Bishopthorpe are in catchment for both Fulford School and Millthorpe School. The majority of children living in this area choose Fulford school.

Responding to the CYC consultation on the removal of discretionary transport to Tadcaster Grammar School, 20% of respondents answered that they would continue to choose Tadcaster Grammar School if the transport was removed. Modelling of numbers to attend alternative York schools has therefore been based on 80% of children in the relevant catchments choosing a York school once funding is removed.

Modelling has used the number of pupils attending Tadcaster Grammar School and Millthorpe School from the Millthorpe catchment area, focusing on those who live in the Copmanthorpe Primary School catchment area. Future years have been forecast using average migration from Year 3, 4 and 5 to Year 7. Fewer children join secondary at Year 7 than were in primary school due to parental choice for independent education or schools out of the area. Minimum and maximum likely numbers have been calculated based on the minimum and maximum proportions of children in the Millthorpe catchment attending either Millthorpe or Tadcaster Grammar.

#### Previous Years

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Number of children living in Millthorpe catchment*	250	272	268	288	262
Number allocated Millthorpe from catchment	164	191	183	203	158
Number allocated Tadcaster from Millthorpe catchment	30	45	33	31	46
Total allocated Millthorpe or Tadcaster	194	236	216	234	204
% allocated Tadcaster or Millthorpe	78%	87%	81%	81%	78%

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Number of children living in Fulford catchment*	316	303	290	295	295
Number allocated Fulford from catchment	270	267	256	240	240
Number allocated Tadcaster from Fulford catchment	9	7	0	8	5
Total allocated Fulford or Tadcaster	279	274	256	248	245
% allocated Fulford or Tadcaster	88%	90%	88%	84%	83%

\* attending state schools

**Forecast**

	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
Number of children living in Millthorpe catchment	258	245	249
Number of children living in Copmanthorpe catchment*	48	50	45
Number likely to attend TGS from Copmanthorpe (20%)	10	10	9
Forecast maximum total allocated Millthorpe	214	203	208
Forecast minimum total allocated Millthorpe	191	181	185

	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
Number of children living in Fulford catchment	319	295	338
Number of children living in Bishopthorpe catchment*	34	60	38
Number likely to attend TGS from Bishopthorpe (20%)	7	12	8
Forecast maximum total allocated Fulford	271	245	286
Forecast minimum total allocated Fulford	242	218	256

\*current numbers – will reduce with primary to Year 7 migration

**Summary**

Copmanthorpe is in Millthorpe School catchment area and Manor CE School Priority Admissions Zone as well as Tadcaster Grammar School catchment area. The current planned admission number at Millthorpe School is 212. Including the number of children who may no longer choose Tadcaster Grammar if there is no discretionary transport, the maximum forecast Year 7 of 214 in 2025/26 is the only one which exceeds this, suggesting that there will be places at Millthorpe for all children living in catchment who choose to apply. Manor School is also forecast to have surplus places available from 2025/26 onwards. Some applications to Millthorpe from other catchment may be displaced to other areas. However, there are already surplus places in 3 York secondary schools and further surplus places will become available from 2025 onwards as smaller cohorts from primary start Year 7.

Bishopthorpe is in Fulford and Millthorpe School catchment areas as well as Tadcaster Grammar School. Fewer children currently attend Tadcaster Grammar School, with the majority attending Fulford School. The Planned Admission Number at Fulford has recently been increased to 300. Even if all children living in Bishopthorpe were to attend Fulford instead of Tadcaster Grammar, it is forecast there will be sufficient places for all children in catchment.



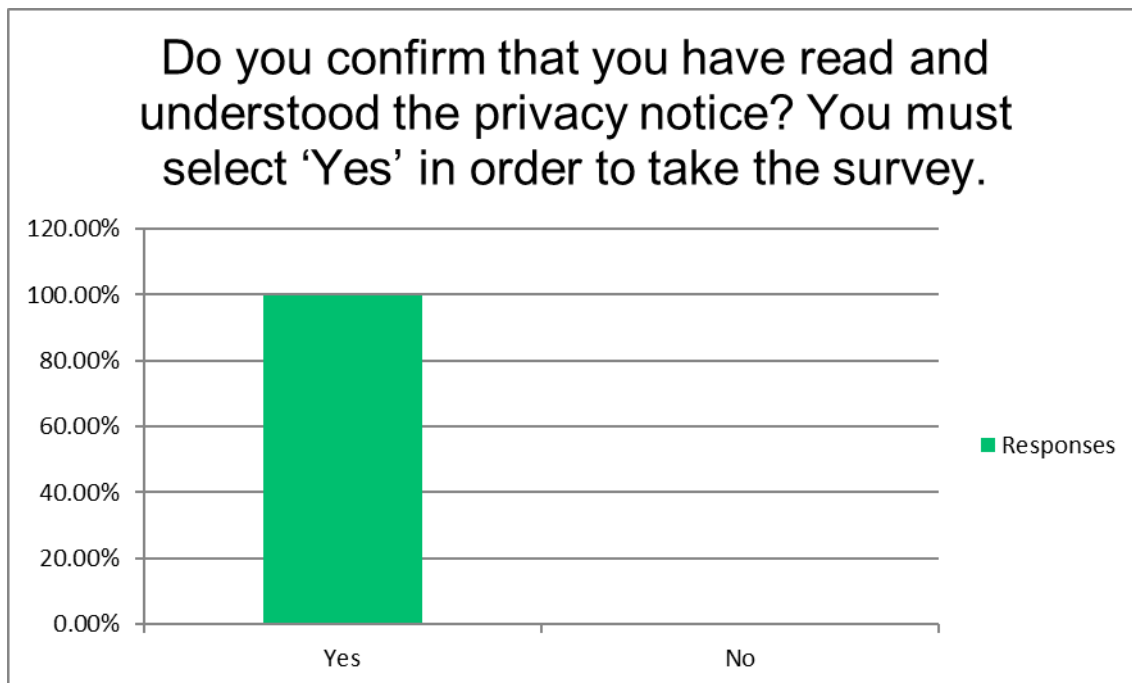
# Tadcaster Grammar School Consultation Survey Summary

**CYP TRANSPORT**

**Question 1**

Do you confirm that you have read and understood the Privacy Notice – you must select Yes to take the survey.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	99.85%	650
No	0.15%	1
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>651</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>0</b>

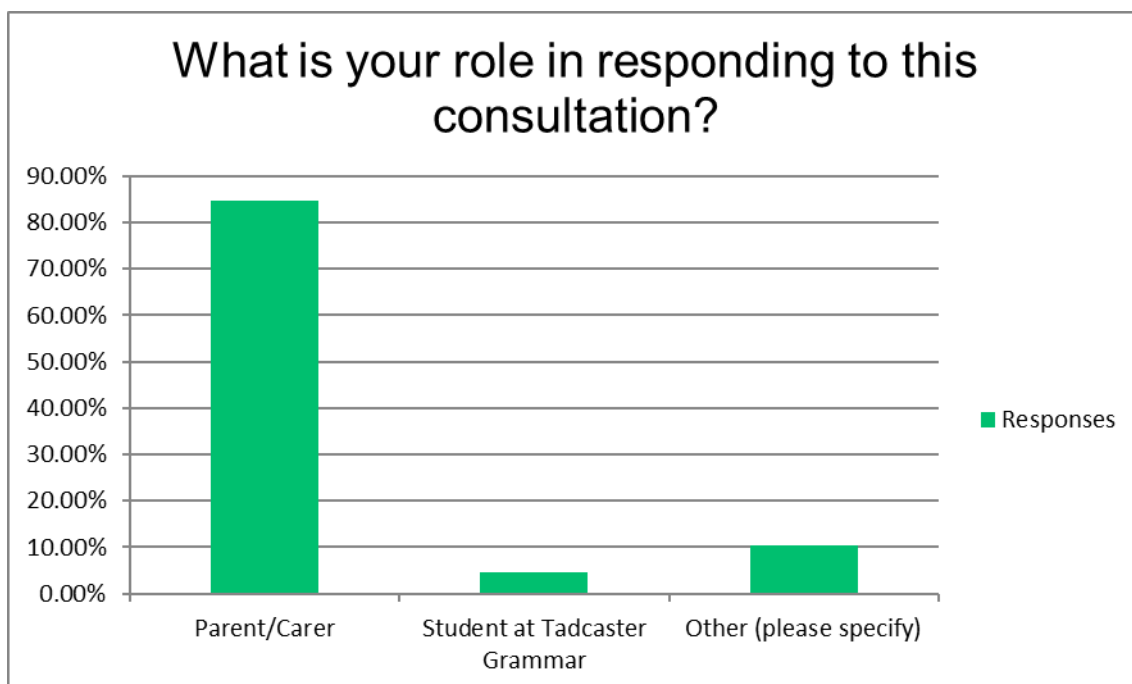




**Question 2**

What is your role in responding to this consultation?

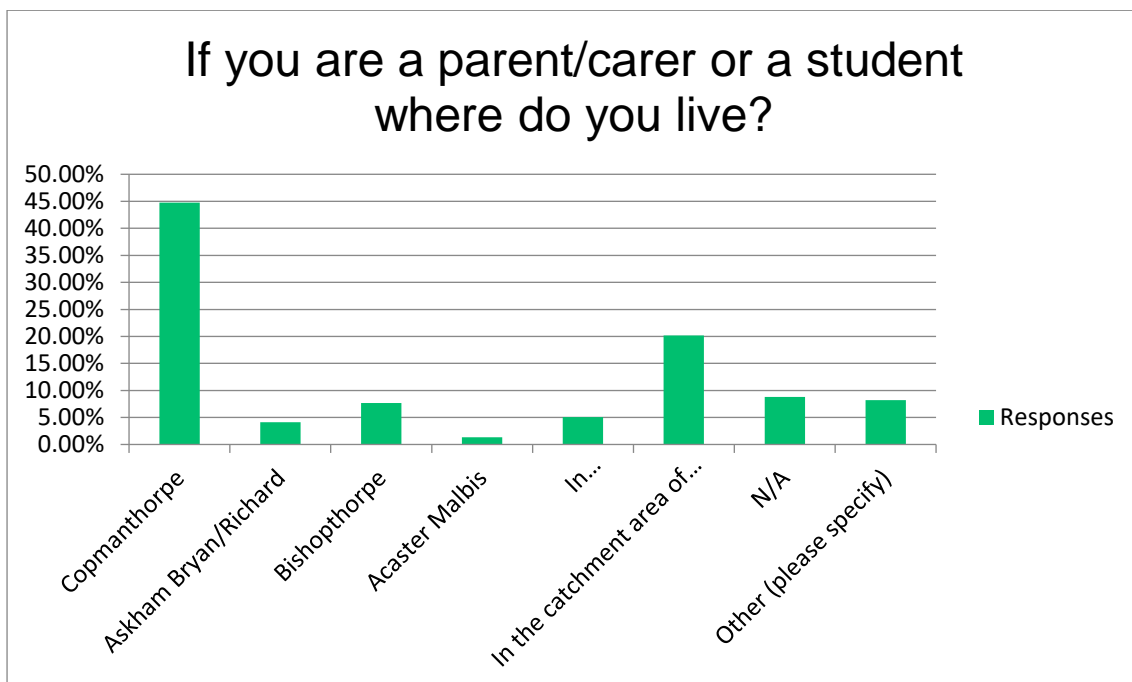
Answer Choices	Responses	
Parent/Carer	84.75%	467
Student at Tadcaster Grammar	4.72%	26
Other (please specify)	10.53%	58
	Answered	551
	Skipped	100



### Question 3

If you are a parent/carer or a student where do you live?

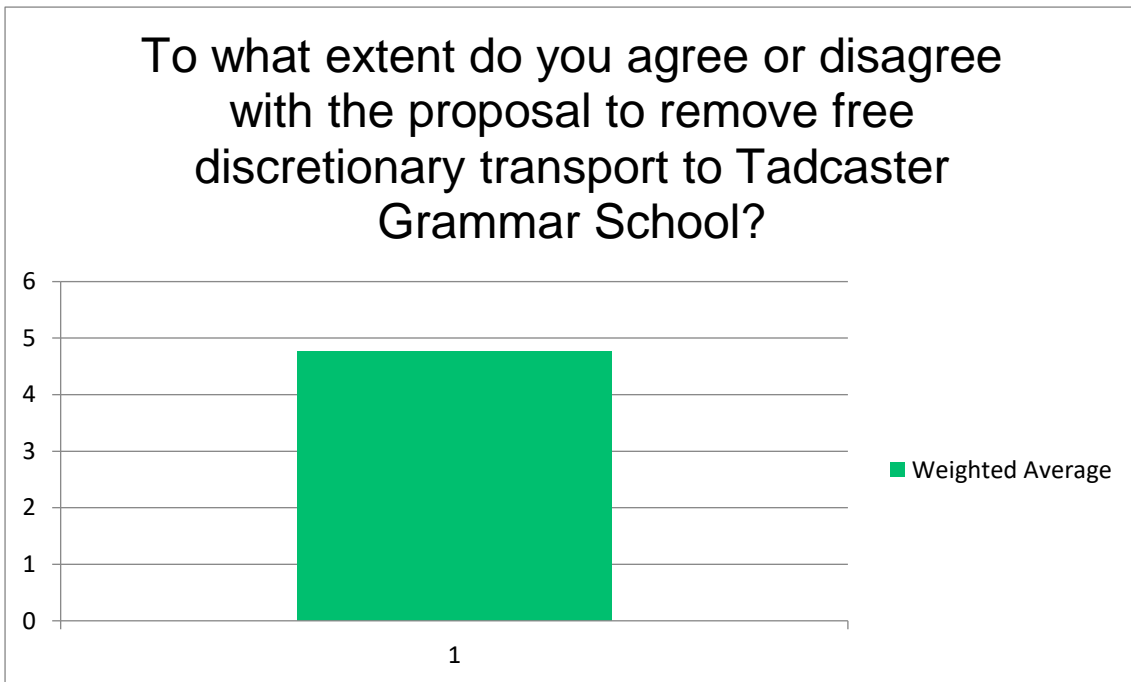
Answer Choices	Responses	
Copmanthorpe	44.78%	240
Askham Bryan/Richard	4.10%	22
Bishophthorpe	7.65%	41
Acaster Malbis	1.31%	7
In Woodthorpe/Dringhouses/Acomb area	5.04%	27
In the catchment area of Tadcaster Grammar School but living in North Yorkshire	20.15%	108
N/A	8.77%	47
Other (please specify)	8.21%	44
	Answered	536
	Skipped	115



**Question 4**

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to remove free discretionary transport to Tadcaster Grammar School?

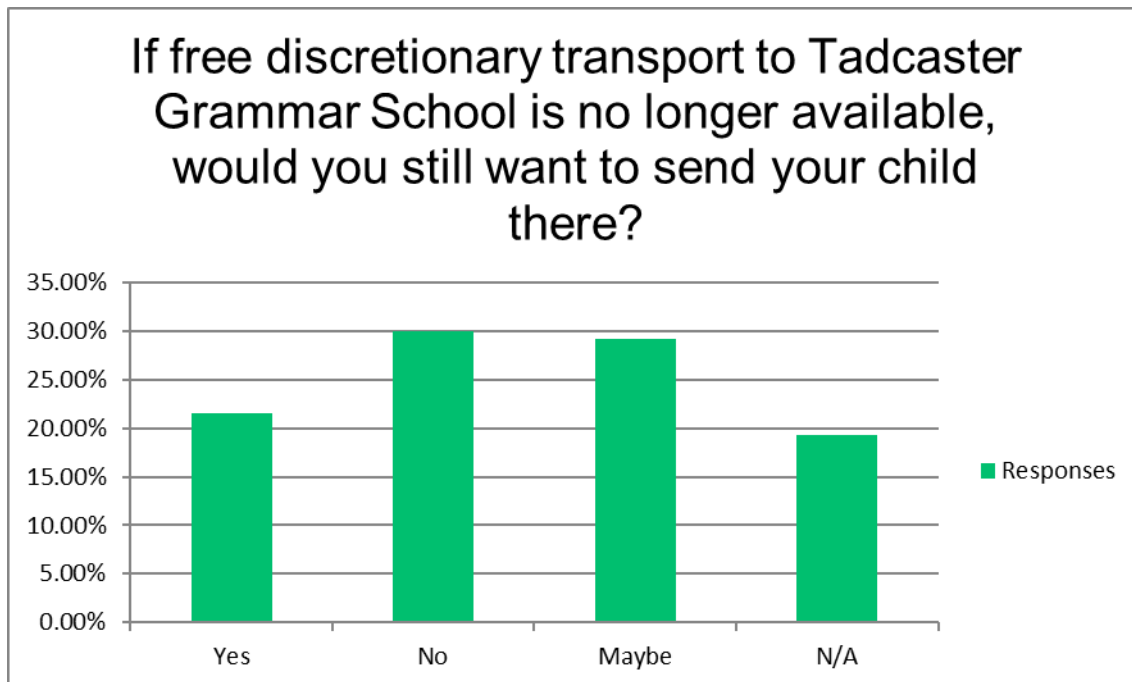
	Strongly agree		Agree		Neither agree nor disagree		Disagree		Strongly disagree		Total	Weighted Average
1	3.42%	18	0.95%	5	0.76%	4	5.31%	28	89.56%	472	527	4.77
											<b>Answered</b>	<b>527</b>
											<b>Skipped</b>	<b>124</b>



## Question 5

If free discretionary transport to Tadcaster Grammar School is no longer available, would you still want to send your child there?

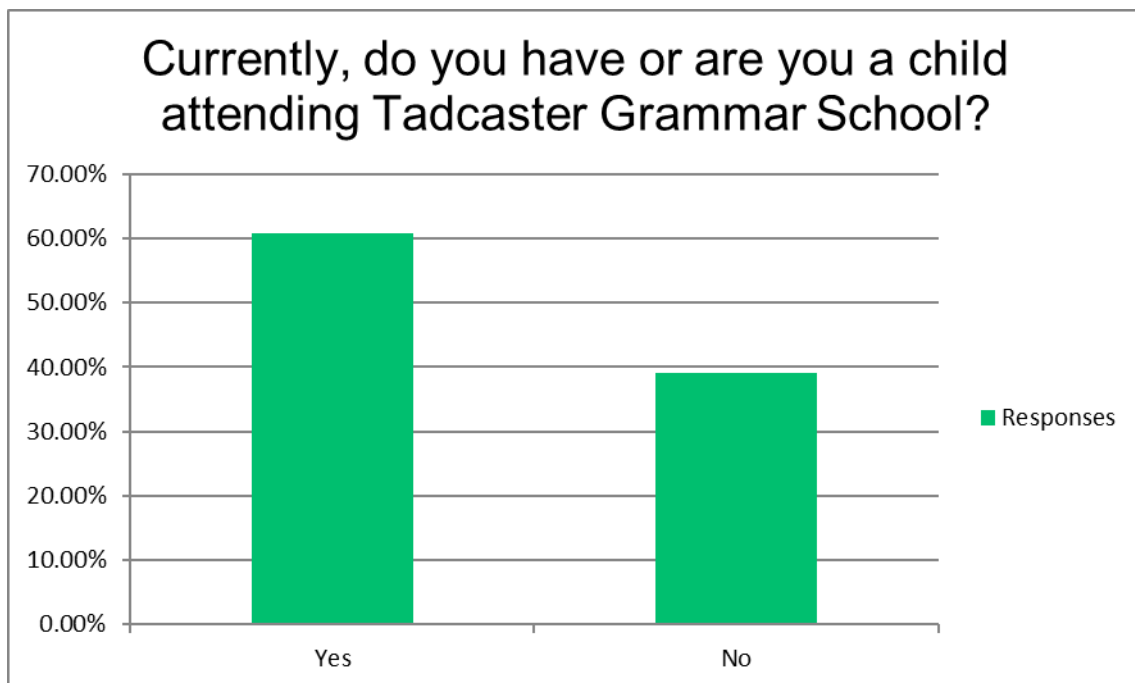
Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	21.56%	113
No	29.96%	157
Maybe	29.20%	153
N/A	19.27%	101
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>524</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>127</b>



**Question 6**

Currently do you have or are you a child attending Tadcaster Grammar School?

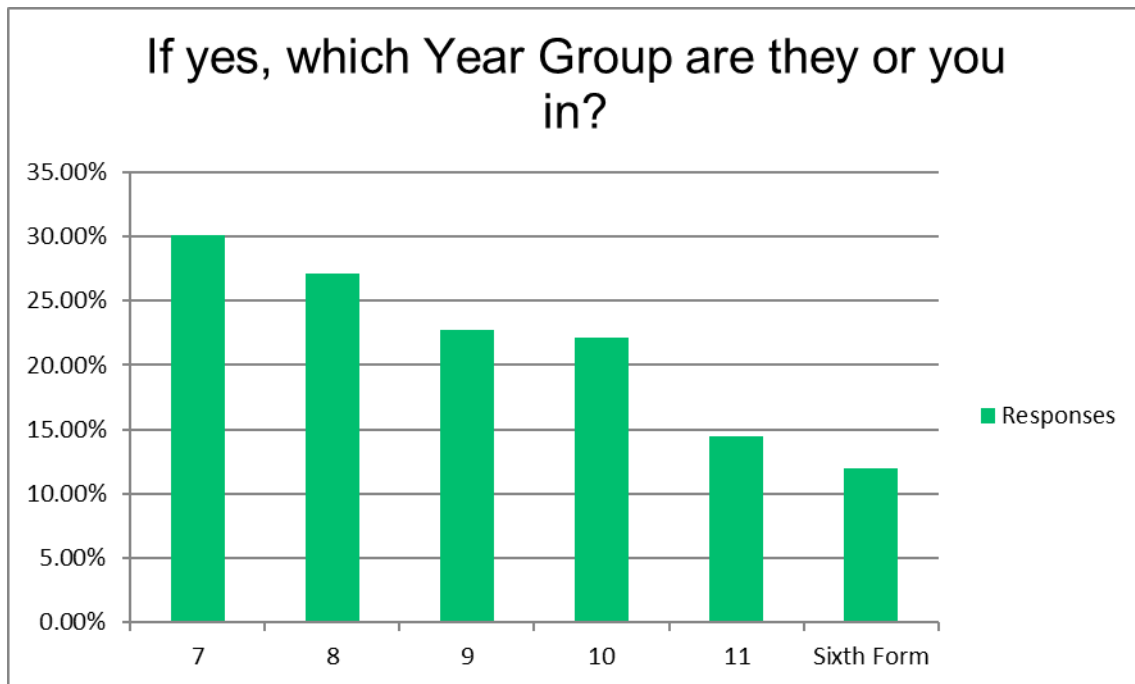
Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	60.84%	320
No	39.16%	206
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>526</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>125</b>



## Question 7

If yes, which Year Group are they or you in?

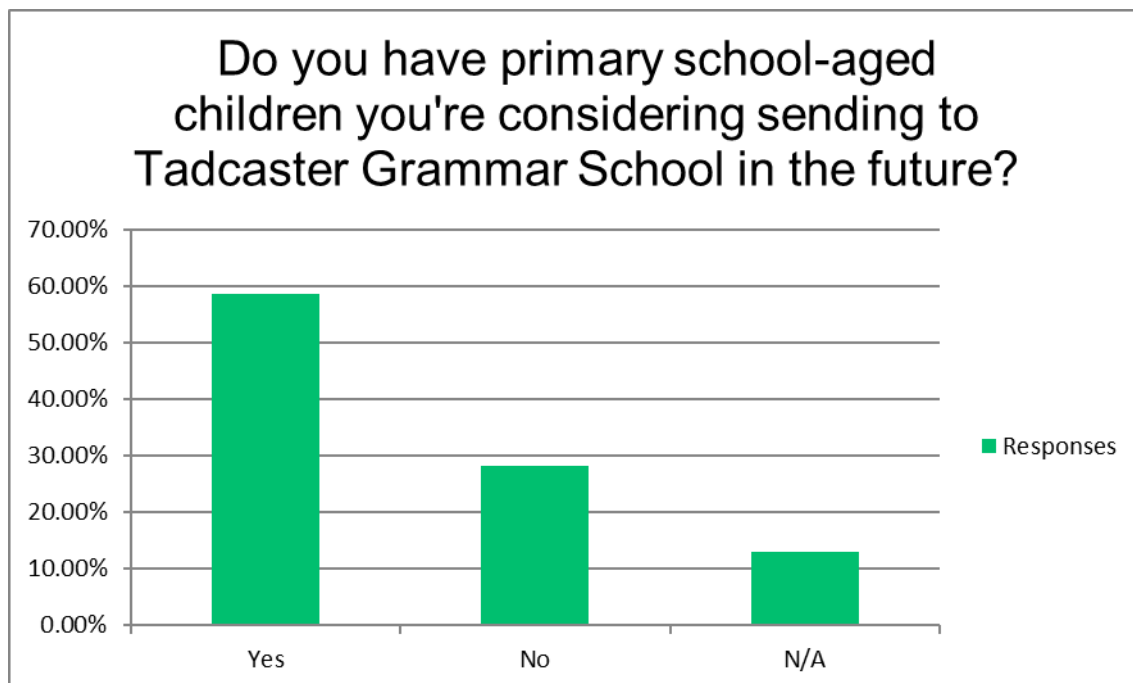
Answer Choices	Responses	
7	30.15%	98
8	27.08%	88
9	22.77%	74
10	22.15%	72
11	14.46%	47
Sixth Form	12.00%	39
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>325</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>326</b>



### Question 8

Do you have primary school-aged children you're considering sending to Tadcaster Grammar School in the future?

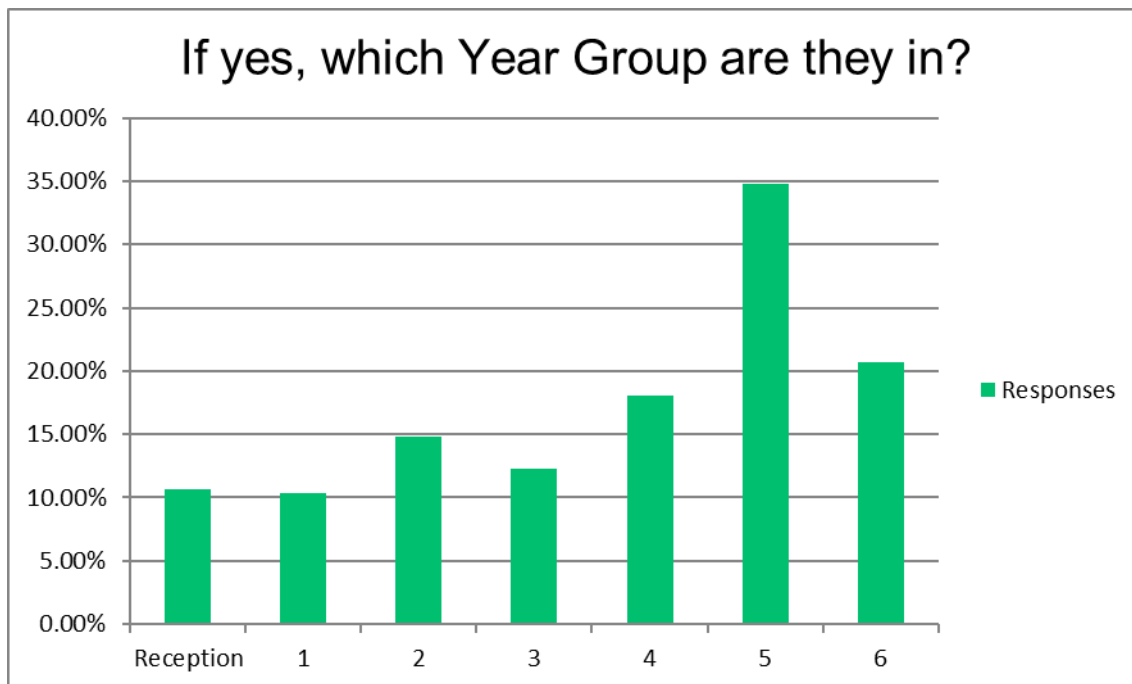
Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	58.70%	307
No	28.30%	148
N/A	13.00%	68
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>523</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>128</b>



**Question 9**

If yes, which Year Group are they in?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Reception	10.65%	33
1	10.32%	32
2	14.84%	46
3	12.26%	38
4	18.06%	56
5	34.84%	108
6	20.65%	64
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>310</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>341</b>

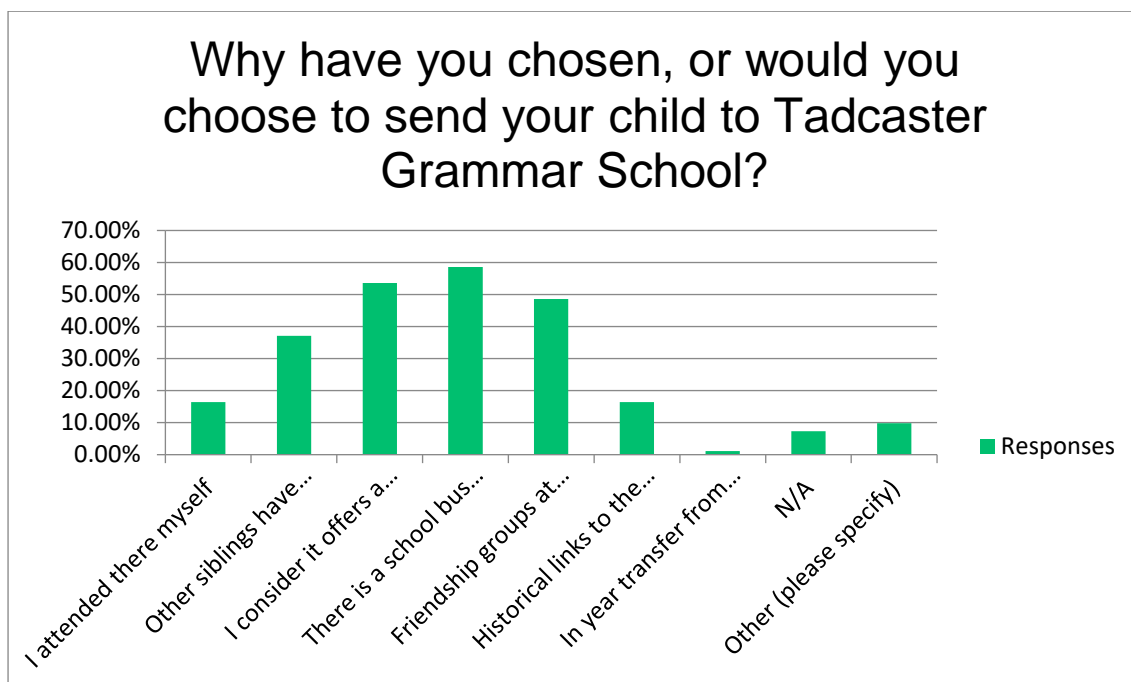




## Question 10

Why have you chosen, or would you choose to send your child to Tadcaster Grammar School?

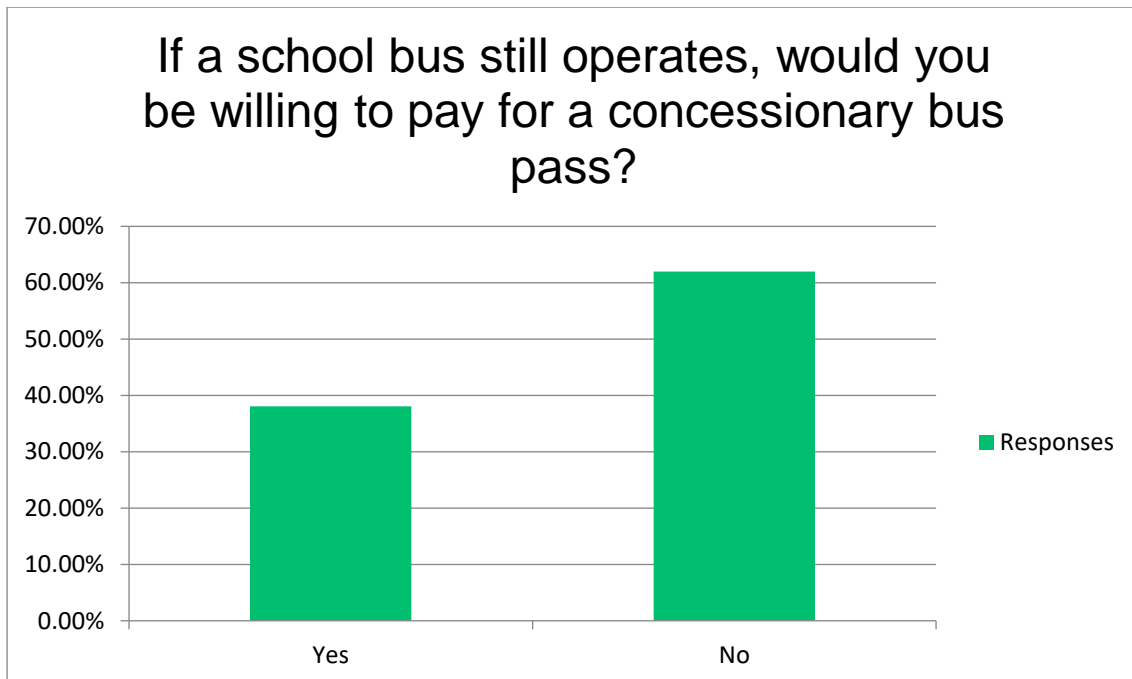
Answer Choices	Responses	
I attended there myself	16.44%	85
Other siblings have attended or attend there	37.14%	192
I consider it offers a better standard of education than my York catchment school	53.58%	277
There is a school bus service direct from my village	58.61%	303
Friendship groups at primary school planning to apply or currently attend	48.55%	251
Historical links to the school	16.44%	85
In year transfer from another school	1.16%	6
N/A	7.35%	38
Other (please specify)	9.86%	51
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>517</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>134</b>



## Question 11

If a school bus still operates, would you be willing to pay for a concessionary bus pass?

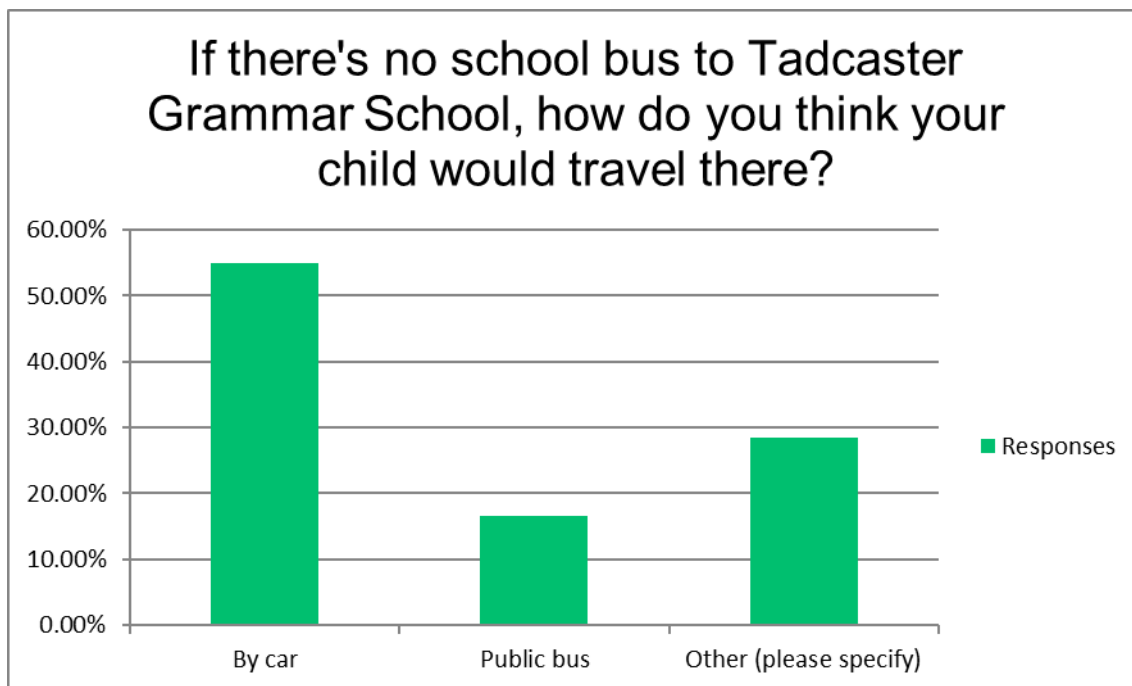
Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	38.04%	175
No	61.96%	285
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>460</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>191</b>



## Question 12

If there's no school bus to Tadcaster Grammar School, how do you think your child would travel there?

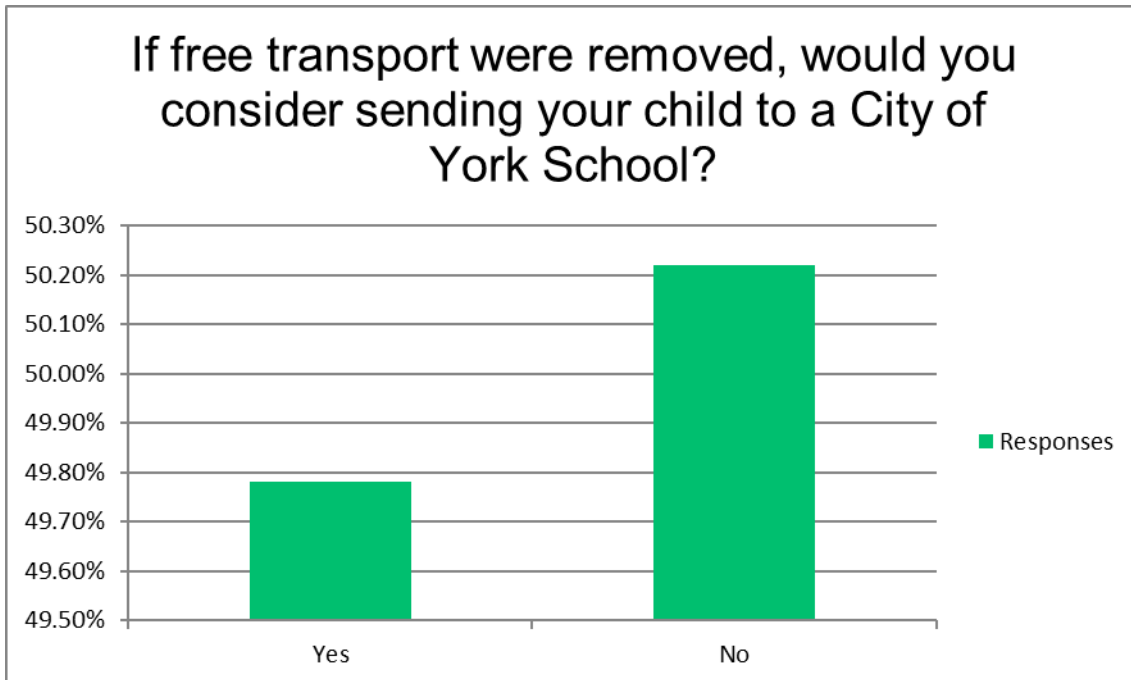
Answer Choices	Responses	
By car	54.87%	248
Public bus	16.59%	75
Other (please specify)	28.54%	129
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>452</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>199</b>



**Question 13**

If free transport were removed, would you consider sending your child to a City of York School?

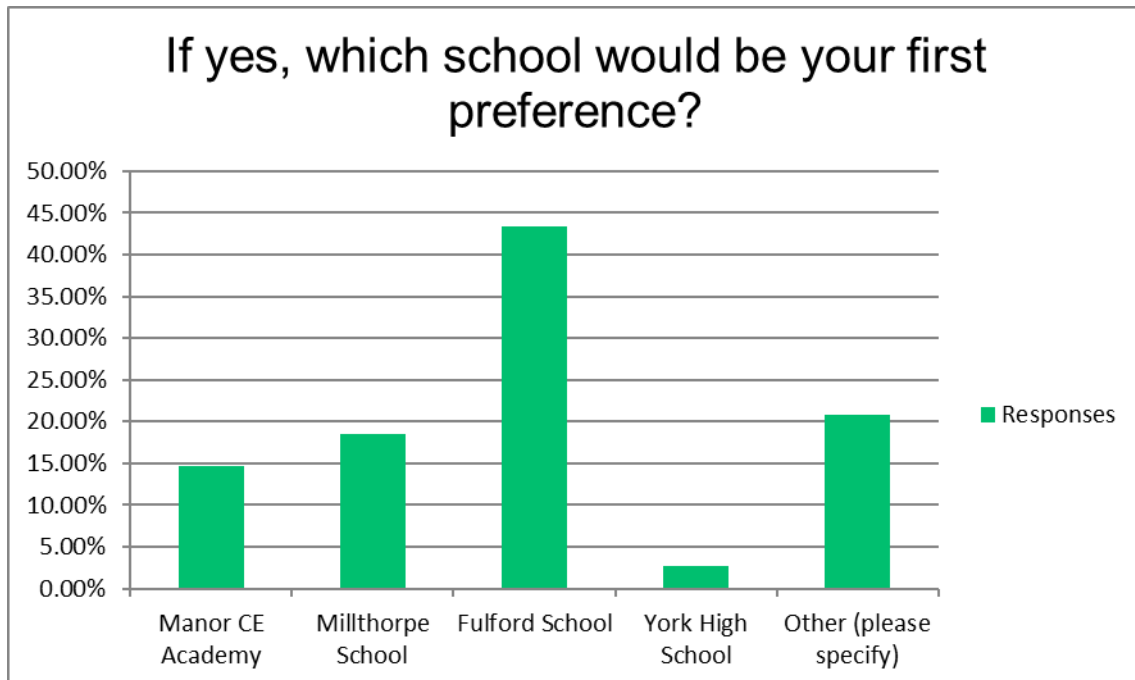
Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	49.78%	226
No	50.22%	228
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>454</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>197</b>



## Question 14

If yes, which school would be your first preference?

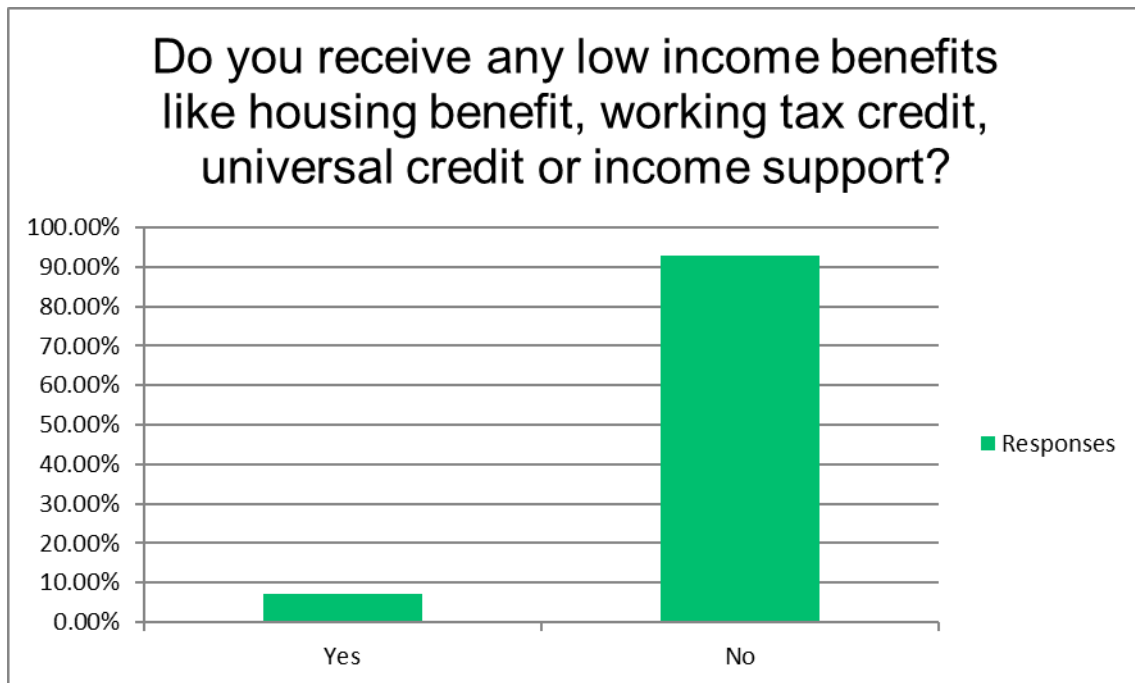
Answer Choices	Responses	
Manor CE Academy	14.72%	39
Millthorpe School	18.49%	49
Fulford School	43.40%	115
York High School	2.64%	7
Other (please specify)	20.75%	55
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>265</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>386</b>



**Question 15**

Do you receive any low income benefits like housing benefit, working tax credit, universal credit or income support?

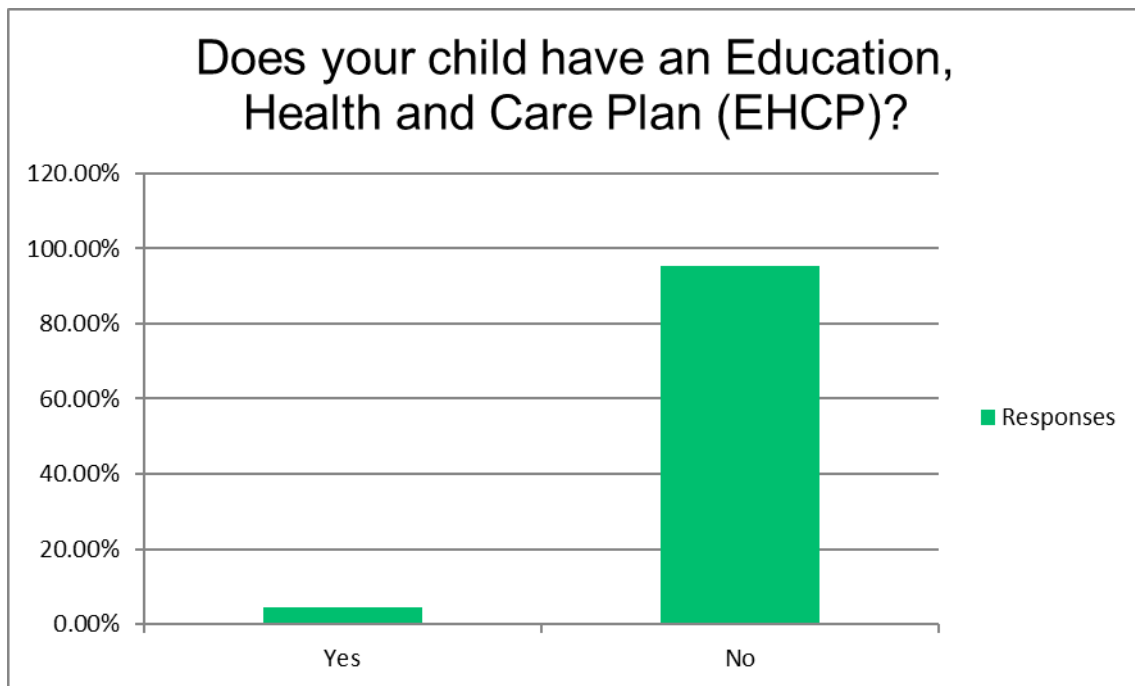
Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	7.25%	34
No	92.75%	435
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>469</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>182</b>



**Question 16**

Does your child have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	4.49%	21
No	95.51%	447
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>468</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>183</b>



**The following comments have been taken from the responses to Q17. The comments have been categorised but may be relevant to more than one category.**

### Question 17

Please share any other comments you have about the proposal to remove free discretionary transport to Tadcaster Grammar School

#### School Numbers/Places Available

<p>This would be a very damaging decision for the school as a whole. It could potentially reduce the number of pupils enrolled which in turn will affect the longevity and viability of the school.</p>
<p>The catchment area school from Copmanthorpe (Millthorpe) is a school which is already oversubscribed - there are no places at York Schools for the approximate 60 pupils moving on there in 2 years' time.</p> <p>Furthermore, if school places are not offered to children at Copmanthorpe Primary there isn't an option of a school which my daughters could get to (paid or unpaid) without us privately driving them. This is increasing the traffic on roads near schools and, subsequently, pollution.</p> <p>In addition, there have always been historic links between the primary and the secondary. I think TGS may experience a large change in numbers - especially where a parent already has one child already at Tadcaster and one still in primary - I cannot see this of being of benefit to TGS.</p> <p>TGS is our closest school and most similar to the demographic of Copmanthorpe - and consequently is most equipped to meet the needs and requirements of pupils from a rural village - Councils should work together to ensure pupils do not have ridiculous commutes to schools. There is no direct bus route here which would mean 25 minutes' walk plus 15 minutes bus journey for an 11 year old to get to school from our location - most likely at a reduced rate on the local bus rather than free.</p>
<p>It would be good to know what will be put in place instead of the free buses. Will parents/children with low income get a free bus pass? It feels like scaremongering in an attempt to force parents to send their children to York schools and I am concerned that this will reduce our student numbers significantly.</p>
<p>Currently 225 students use this transport, this would mean that an extra 225 student spaces would be required in York schools should they decide not to attend Tadcaster in future over 5 years. The majority of the villages are over 3 miles from their York catchment school so are still entitled to free transport so the council will still have to pay for this so it does not seem to be fully costed properly.</p>
<p>York schools are already at capacity.</p> <p>Tadcaster school has always been the school of choice for Copmanthorpe. We are very pleased with the level of education our children receive there.</p>
<p>I do appreciate that providing transport is expensive and budgets are stretched. However, as we live more than 3 miles away from our catchment area school (Tadcaster Grammar) then we should be entitled to free transport to get there. I doubt that there would be enough space at our York catchment school (Millthorpe) if</p>



all the children at Copmanthorpe suddenly decided to go there instead. Surely the cost of increasing school places in the city of York schools would be more expensive than the cost of providing transport to Tadcaster. Or couldn't you come to an arrangement with North Yorkshire and split the cost.

We are not averse to paying a contribution to the cost of the bus as I understand we would have should our child choose to go to sixth form at Tadcaster. However, some of the rumoured bus fees of £800 per year per child and possibly more seem extortionate for a family on a normal household income and seems unreasonable when we should be able to get to our catchment area school, free of charge.

If free transport is removed then a lot of families will likely send their children elsewhere. I understand that most York schools are already at capacity and with possibility of the private schools having to increase fees in near future, which families can't afford, then York schools are going to struggle.

Tadcaster Grammar School IS a catchment school for Copmanthorpe - we moved to the village to be in catchment for this school as we think highly of it and want both of our children to be educated there. If you took away the school bus to Tadcaster there would then be no school bus running for any school (Millthorpe students use the number 13 service bus, which would not accommodate a sudden influx of extra students, so another chartered service would need to be provided anyway, at cost to York council). This scheme seems to rely on parents being tokenistic ally offered a solution of sending their children to Millthorpe, at no extra cost for transport, but the truth is that Millthorpe's intake was full last year and couldn't accommodate all of the Copmanthorpe children coming through, so parents will still get TGS (even as their second choice) and be made to pay the transport costs for their children. There simply aren't enough spaces in City of York schools to accommodate everyone coming through in Copmanthorpe, and so York Council needs TGS to take some of the students, and the free bus service must continue, in order to avoid unfairly discriminating against families of Copmanthorpe. The predicted costs of £800 per year (per child) are incredibly unfair and punitive to families already struggling with the cost of living crisis. It's shameful that it is even being considered.

I live in Tadcaster but I worry about the longer term impact on TGS if kids from York villages no longer attend. Humphrey Smith restricts house building in Tadcaster so there is a short of young families moving to Tadcaster and from what I hear the York schools are very oversubscribed so there will be a crush on places there and inevitably more cars on the road as the York families who still go to TGS will use buses less. Seems short sighted - TGS is a good school and has traditionally children coming from York for years. NYCC areas are being neglected as York takes away resources- think the Council will lose more in hearing admissions appeals than it will save on the bus subsidy

The removal of the bus service will significantly impact Tadcaster Grammar school in terms of its numbers and therefore future sustainability and quality of education, Tadcaster grammar school has been the feeder school for villages such as copmanthorpe for years and the school relies of pupils attending from these villages. This decision will adversely affect the school and therefore the education those attending receive, it is vitally responsible important to support our schools irrelevant of a technicality as to wear it sits geographically. Needs further detailed analysis on the school and also potential impact for the York schools in the area in terms of their capacity to take these children.

Removing free transport would force people from those areas to York schools and surely make it more difficult to get places. Tadcaster school is likely to receive a lot less students so less funding.

This proposal is likely to force many parents to send their kids to a York City School which they may not want to for many reasons. This will increase pressure on York schools to take in additional kids and thus has a pressure on teachers and staff. Increasing class numbers which are in many cases already at breaking point has an impact on the education that they will receive. Increasing numbers in York schools may increase government funding however will have a major impact on resources.

There is a strong historical link with the families from the area in sending their children to Tadcaster. York schools in the area do not have the capacity to cope with the significant increase in students.

The removal of free/direct school buses would mean that the practicalities of physically getting to school would have to become a more critical consideration for parents and children in the villages affected and this should not be the case! I am also really worried about capacity/availability of places within York City. Spaces at the better schools are already under pressure now, let alone if there were over two hundred more students to place. I think the removal of the free and direct bus services to TGS is a backwards step and would have far reaching negative impacts on the quality of education, and children's' experiences of it, across the city. Also, many parents would appeal if they couldn't then get a secondary place within their catchment area and probably win, meaning the council would by law need to provide transport anyway, resulting in a likely cost increase overall rather than a saving.

Fulford school is already oversubscribed and removing free transport to Tadcaster Grammar would only put more strain it. Also, there are parents with older children at Tad, who would have to pay for younger children to attend the same school. It is unreasonable to expect them to send siblings to a city of York school, as they don't always have the same school holidays. The cost of living crisis will make it difficult to afford to pay for the bus, and it is the children that will suffer.

Removal of free discretionary transport would increase the number of children applying for York schools. This would lead to the schools being oversubscribed and additional pressure would be added to the schools with additional pupils. Numbers attending Tadcaster would be adversely affected leading to long term jeopardy of the school's existence.

My youngest daughter wants to attend the same school as her siblings. We also have firm links with the school and a history which means we have a good relationship with staff.

I think the issue is city of York can't accommodate all the children within its schools...

I also think this is a politically motivated move by the Labour council who do not feel there are any 'votes' in the outlying villages and would rather spend cash in Labour voting wards

Has this been modelled properly? I do not believe there are enough spaces in York school for these students to do. Certainly not for all to go to their nearest school as most would have the same nearest.

Tadcaster grammar is the best option for the children in copmanthorpe. All schools would be more than 3 miles away so presumably the LA would have to pay for transport to any school they go to.

Also, if the children of copmanthorpe can't go to Tadcaster would there be enough capacity in the York schools? I would not be happy sending my children wrong to the catchment school of milthorpe and we are not religious so manor is not really an option. Our choice of school is Tadcaster and disagree strongly with the removal of the transport given you would still have to provide transport to any York school so I don't see how this would be a cost saving to the council.

**Money/Political**

As ever York Councils attempts to save money involve considering the removal of services rather than improving efficiency. A school bus service is not the sort of area you should be targeting for savings. Buses are a much better way of transporting children to school rather than fifty parents having to drive their children to the school gate. Villages rely on school bus services, to remove this service would be another disappointing decision. We would consider paying a cost to maintain a bus to Tadcaster although bear in mind people may have more than one child, multiplying the cost. Villages are not just somewhere that wealthy people live btw.

This is unbelievable. What would the cost be for school buses to Fulford instead?

One of the main deciding factor is free transport to the school.

The cost of annual transport to school, for some families especially at time of economic difficulty, will be too much to bear. The freedom of choice for families to send their children should remain a basic right and should be supported by the local authority. Living in a village so not be a disadvantage. The reduction or cessation of public bus services in rural areas has already caused much hardship for many. School bus services need to be reliable, safe and free.

As a catchment school that is over 3 miles from our home, I strongly feel that our children should be entitled to free transport to Tadcaster Grammar School. This is an addition cost that families can ill afford and will limit the educational choices available to children in our area. As we live further than 3 miles from Millthorpe school I believe York Council would be required to fund transport anyway but the infrastructure is not in place for all the children from our village to attend Millthorpe school. There is no designated school service and the number 13 service bus is already extremely busy at school times. As we already have one of the most underfunded primary schools in York it seems that increasingly, York Council do not value the education of the children in our area.

I will re-consider my political vote given this proposal.

Tadcaster is at the centre of a catchment area. Removing free transport to half the area will put up major barriers to attending the school and start to impact the character and attendance at the school negatively- ultimately impacting all the children at the school. Pupils will still need transport to a school so it is hard to see how it will ultimately cost save and children will suffer as a result of ultimately arbitrary boundaries of councils rather than looking at schooling holistically.

The removal of free transport to Tadcaster will massively impact the number of students attending each year. It is too far out of the way for many to walk with the minimum walk being approximately 30 minutes (and that's if you live on the very outskirts of Tadcaster). This will impact the quality of education that tad can offer due to less funding which will further damage its reputation and size of student base. Currently the bus I used to get costs around £1000 per year and it is not even a quality service. This is not a reasonable price to pay for 5-7 years of education and I have a feeling the bus companies won't reduce the prices despite receiving this amount of money from each student. 60-90 students are able to get on a bus depending on its size which is 60,000 to 90,000 per year from students for one bus. Companies with multiple buses will receive more than double that number. The school currently has 1,500 students and if everyone paid for a bus, they would make £1,500,000 in pure revenue. They could afford to reduce prices if the council went through with this decision but I highly doubt they will leading to many families struggling to send their children to school. Another issue I'd like to bring light to is the village Aberford being divided in 2 in terms of half being offered free bus passes and the other half having to pay. The bus service received is not good

AT ALL. The drivers are frequently late (multiple times a week), the buses are often dirty and a few of the drivers in the past have been rude to students. The price they charge is £1000 per year for those that have to pay and they don't offer any form of discount for year 11's or sixth formers when they don't use the bus for large chunks in the year. During covid they closed their bus service from March due to the lockdown and refused to refund anyone for the term that the bus wasn't being used. They weren't running the bus yet still charged for it. Multiple families reached out and requested a refund and complained about the poor customer service and they were promptly blocked on social media. This led to them being unable to receive updates on the buses which is unacceptable and extremely unprofessional from the CEO of the company (A&A coach travel). I urge the council to look into this company and attempt to improve the service because it is simply disgusting.

I feel if the Council feel they have to remove this bus, then they should also do the same for Fulford school. Both schools are in the catchment area. And are both out of the 3 mile Radius for children getting to school on their own safely. Tadcaster grammar school offers children different options in Learning than most of the York schools. And I feel this important to keep this opportunity open for children who find school difficult. Tadcaster grammar school helps with these children without making them feel different. And you removing the bus makes it even harder for children who don't fit in other schools as well

This is a cynical cost cutting measure by CYC which could lead to the loss of an excellent school with a history of providing great education for children from City of York, at a time when provision in the city itself was poor. Parents live in these areas because we wanted to be able to choose. To defund travel essentially takes that choice away for many. It also makes a mockery of the catchment areas set out by NYCC.

Unfair to children living in areas where the opportunity to attend a good school like Tadcaster Grammar School is taken away from them and if their parents cannot afford to pay for transport to get there, their catchment school becomes York High school which is a very different school and with different young people than Tadcaster Grammar School. The decision to remove transport for York children to a North Yorkshire school seems petty and one that won't help boost York school's numbers by forcing young people to attend them by taking their buses away from them. A shocking approach to young people's education.

Surely you need to re-address the catchment area maps if this is the way you are proceeding so that parents are aware of what their child's catchment areas are when moving to an area.

This is a cost cutting exercise being carried out at the expense of children and their education. There is a history and tradition of these villages being in the catchment for Tadcaster Grammar - this is not something new i.e., not a new additional cost. Like many cost cutting plans, it is not thought through properly - short term against the longer implications. All you will do is create additional cost elsewhere, increase the number of cars on the road and increase the stress on families in already difficult times. I would have thought that that past 13 years have demonstrated that austerity does not work.

Why not fund a direct public transport link to the school rather than pay vast sums of money to the private sector?

The school has been offering a free bus service since well before 1996 and this is misleading to suggest it only started then, the form should indicate that it was offered prior to this by a different function. Tadcaster Grammar school has been a staple of education for both Bishopthorpe and Copmanthorpe for over 40 years and the removal of free busses would harm both the education on offer (increasing numbers at York schools) and harm the school as it would decrease the intake numbers, this is another crazy money saving scheme that hasn't been thought through correctly, and what should be reviewed is the wasted money in the council

<p>As I do not receive any support and seem to pay for everything, there is no way I will be able to afford the cost of bus travel for my child/s. I have no extra money and will struggle anyway to support my family.</p>
<p>I think it is disgusting that this has even been considered, it shows the council are trying to save money any way they can. This would affect the congestion on the A64 as more parents would have to take their children to school. The standard of education is below that of Tadcaster at other schools in my catchment and I would not consider sending my child to these school. We should strive for a more environmentally friendly way of children attending school, which would be on a bus.</p>
<p>What a ridiculous idea in the current financial climate. This will impact families massively and more so with families with more than one child.</p>
<p>Removal of these services seems totally unnecessary. Many generations of families from these villages have attending Tadcaster Grammar School and I would hope to continue to do so. Having attended myself, and now my year 7 son, I have found the school to be excellent and enjoyed my time there.</p>
<p>I would suggest if York Council can afford to pay its chief executive 193k per year, it can afford to provide a bus service for children to attend this school.</p>
<p>If this is enacted I'll be campaigning for Copmanthorpe to leave York council and join North Yorkshire. I'll also have plenty to say about the massive £1million backhander the council have received for those houses being built in Copmanthorpe.</p>
<p>This will affect how I vote in the relevant election.</p>
<p>There are plenty of other "cutbacks" the council could make instead of jeopardising pupils futures and the very future of Tad Grammar</p>
<p>One of our main reasons for moving to Copmanthorpe from outside the York area was due to the proximity of Tadcaster Grammar and the bus service provided to it. It is clear that this decision is being made not only to save money but to try to force Copmanthorpe children into City of York schools which will unfortunately not have the desired effect - all it will mean is that parents will drive their children to Tadcaster which will therefore increase traffic and emissions in the York area. Is this appropriate at a time when most councils are trying to reduce their impact on the climate?</p>
<p>While I appreciate budgets are tight, the decision to target families and schools as the focus of cost cutting is ridiculous and short-sighted when there are clear efficiencies to be gained in other council departments. The net cost saving is far outweighed by the likely negative impact on the educational opportunities of children in these villages, many of whom simply cannot afford to subsidise the cost of their child's education to this extent.</p>
<p>The fact that York is isolated by its unitary constituency position within the great North Yorkshire umbrella leads to this position, if we lived 1/2 mile west, we would have no issue, as we would be outside CYC boundary. Get together with North Yorkshire. The educational inertia needs to be maintained. Look elsewhere for the savings.</p>
<p>The withdrawal of the bus is quite obviously a cost cutting exercise and also to pull more into the York catchment schools. Have you considered what's going to happen when the sheer volume means these schools then become oversubscribed? I understand the complexities of school (pupil led) funding, but this withdrawal is a bad idea, one I'm sure you wouldn't be doing if TGS were still a government maintained school.</p>
<p>Cutting the school buses or making them a paid for service will have a negative impact. There are many families already feeling the impact of increased household expenses and adding to that will make people use cars more, lift share and create more congestion around the school - to be honest I think the council we just trying to find cuts but impacting families who might have 2 children at the school and creating an additional burden is not the place to go with this. It will also have a negative impact on the environment</p>

because having these buses is more practical than an additional 50-100 cars on the road each morning and night! I don't support this proposal!
Do not think this has been fully costed. Currently over two hundred children take these buses but assumed only one bus will be needed for the York schools even though all these children live over 3 miles from York catchment school. It states in paperwork millthorpe will need some work this added to the money for the buses required I believe exceed the current spend on buses. I would like to see some proper numbers just not the guesses currently in the proposal.
The free transport to Tadcaster should continue. YCC should look at TGS as a high quality, low cost addition to their school estate. The cost of the transport will be low compared with the cost of expanding the YCC school estate to take the extra pupils. Tadcaster is a good school providing a good education to a large number of children. Why stop doing something that works?
I think during these very unsure times with the cost of living increasing so much and wages not increasing to cover the cost if things it would be a very unfair time to make these changes. It is going to take families a good few years to get back to having extra money if you like to pay for travelling to and from school. My child who is currently at secondary school has had to miss out on school trips because we are unable to afford them. Transport not being funded really would add so much extra pressure on parents.
I think there are other ways the council can save money rather than giving us the worry if our children have arrived safely or not.
We feel that this is another example of the CYC council executive targeting outer villages. We wish our children to have the benefit of attending Tadcaster Grammar School with their peers and friends. This will affect low income families most.
Based on the Government website, we would get free school transport to our York catchment school so I don't understand how this saves money. It would not be possible for all the Copmanthorpe children to fit safely on public transport to Millthorpe and so additional buses would need to be provided. It removes choice for our children for secondary education unless you are in the position to pay, which is the opposite to my expectations from a Labour council. Based on the admissions information, there wouldn't be enough places at Millthorpe to fit the extra children.
Removal of the free service is another huge budget impact of giving children the education they deserve. Education should be of high importance to CYC... these children are the city's future
I have two children, one of whom has an EHCP and his options are already limited. There aren't enough places in York's schools for our kids and I could not finance public transport for one child let alone two.
I want to understand why removing transport to Tadcaster Grammar School even being considered. It will cause huge uncertainty for families who are sending their child to Tadcaster, and most of families I know in my village are sending their kids there. Have been the potential effects thoroughly analysed? Have been analysed how the indirect negative effects of this decision would be mitigated? Also, the questions in this questionnaire didn't give me the opportunity to accurately express what I would do if the transport to Tadcaster Grammar School is removed.
This should not be removed. Just to save you money. Spend it more wisely.
I don't see how removing this option would save money as the same number of children would require transport to school. From Bishopthorpe the most obvious choice would be Fulford school the journey time by bus is probably similar to Tadcaster. Extra buses would be required for Fulford. Also of what relevance is the ehcp question

**Environmental**

Your proposal to cut free school bus transport from Copmanthorpe to TGS fails to consider the impacts including:-

- existing school catchment areas
- the rights of parent choice for state- funded education regardless of local authority boundaries
- environmental costs of cars verses a school bus
- safeguarding benefits of school bus service
- children with poor self-confidence
- children with neurodivergence & mental health concerns
- families with low income
- families with multiple children
- risk of children's safety at pick/up drop off due to increased cars.

Our children's future is not a cost saving exercise & this proposal is very tone-deaf to the needs of your constituents!

We object to your proposal on the following grounds: -

(1) Children as victims of postcode lottery.

Tadcaster Grammar school has always been the usual catchment school for children from our village. Copmanthorpe children should not now be disadvantaged by the postcode lottery caused by redrawing council boundaries (as their school is under Leeds council & their school bus is paid for by York council).

To imply other (York) schools are 'available' in your consultation questionnaire is frankly disingenuous. There is no secondary school in walking distance, and no school bus service for Copmanthorpe children to any of the listed York 'alternative schools.

(2) Having evaluated all the secondary schools in York as alternative options for both our older children, we concluded that none were as good a school as TGS. To remove free transport will in effect restrict parent choice. We question whether this is in the spirit of Section 86 of the School Standards & Framework Act 1998, which we understand is supposed to allow parents to express a preference for a state-funded school, regardless of whether it is in the local authority area in which they live.

Removing free school transport will mean only the better off &/or those with the time to drive their kids to/from school will get the 'TGS education' option, which is effectively means-testing state education options from our village!

(3) Stopping funding the school bus to TGS would effectively split the a year 6

children from Copmanthorpe between a number of secondary schools across a York, with a significantly detrimental effect on them. There is good evidence supporting the benefit of them making the difficult transition to 'big school' with the support of their friends. We have definitely found this to be the case with our older children & are especially concerned that our youngest son, who has an EHCP & school anxiety, and who will be significantly affected without a free school bus.

We also strongly question what assessment has been done for the cost to the council of ensuring existing York schools have capacity to provide for all the Copmanthorpe primary school children, without fragmenting their year group between a number of schools.

(4) We are concerned there are significant safeguarding implications for children without a free school bus service. A school bus is a safe way of children building their independence, without the risks of travelling on public bus services (which Copmanthorpe children currently have to do if they attend Milthorpe school). The policy to remove free school bus transport will specifically disadvantage less confident children, who are the ones who benefit most from this. One of the specific reasons we chose TGS was because of the provision of this free school bus service.

This is especially the case for children like our youngest son, who is neurodivergent and has an EHCP (he is expected to remain in mainstream schooling, & as Year 4 will be impacted by the proposed changes.) We recognise that whilst he could 'manage' a dedicated school bus, that he would not be able to negotiate public bus transport. Such children are at significant risk of both school anxiety & school refusal, which the removal of the free school bus service to TGS would significantly increase the risk of.

With growing awareness of the high proportion of children who struggle with neurodivergence and mental health, the proposed policy to remove the free school buses is significantly out of step the current government aims to support these vulnerable members of society.

Instead, it will adversely affect the safeguarding, school attendance & mental health of a huge number of local children.

(5) Public service transport is not a viable alternative option for Copmanthorpe children. Our recent experience of the number 13 bus service to Copmanthorpe (which our children would need to use to get to go to Milthorpe, and which my husband uses to get to work) has shown it to be unpredictable & unreliable, and as such entirely unfit for use for school transport for children. For safeguarding reasons parents have a reasonable expectation to know that their child is going to get to school safely, not be stranded at bus stop because the bus just didn't turn up!

(6) Stopping provision of a free school bus will specifically disadvantage lower income families in Copmanthorpe. We do not have any other secondary school they can walk or cycle to! Parents without a free school bus option, will need to take time off work to do school runs, where children could previously have made their way independently. This compounds the financial pressure on parents, especially those who rely on both parents incomes to survive.

Charging for the school bus service will similarly especially disadvantage lower income families, but also those with more than one child at secondary school who will find it unaffordable to get all their children to school, despite it being an offence not to.



In a time of trying to improve school attendance post COVID this seems very tone-deaf to the needs of the council's constituents.

(7) If there is no free school bus, many parents will have no choice but to drive their children to school.

This has multiple negative consequences

(a) environmental impact of multiple car journeys versus the much more environmentally friendly school bus!

(b) safety in the school car park/drop off. What risk assessments have been undertaken to assess the impact the loss of the free school bus service will have on accidents happening to children due to increased parent traffic in the area of school pick /up drop off?

(c) Many parents rely of school bus transport to get their kids to/from school whilst they work. Taking time off work to do the school run will have a significantly impact on many families, especially those on lower incomes.

We strongly hope you will consider our objections and reconsider this proposal. Attending state secondary school is a mandatory requirement, and the council should ensure children are fully supported doing so, not unfairly disadvantaged because of the village they live in, or the income of their families.

You do so much grandstanding about the environment and then force people to use private cars rather than busses when it suits you. very hypocritical behaviour

Copmanthorpe is a rural location, its families have chosen to make a home there because of the safe setting, values and atmosphere that go with this way of life. It is wrong to limit opportunity to its students, to not continue supporting the free bus service to Tadcaster Grammar, which I believe is more in line with these values than an inner city school such as Millthorpe. Forcing the students into inner city schools due to bus fare funding limits and taking away their opportunity to attend Tadcaster Grammar I believe is wrong. It is worth considering that Copmanthorpe has a high number of hard mid to high income working parents that contribute through taxes to the city's ongoing budgets, charging for schools bus fares I believe is short-sighted and will push parents to use car drop offs, resulting in more traffic on the road, damage the environment and parent work hours being less. Resulting in the long term to smaller tax payments for the council. For young people and families free bus fare to a school of their choice should be a right, we should facilitate opportunity and not limit it.

The bus services in areas between York and Tadcaster are very poor to non-existent. Removal of busses will reduce educational choice, increase car journeys and direct some children to walk down roads with no pavements to get to a bus stop (E.g., on the A64).

Poor public transport in rural areas CO ponds this issue and impacts rural communities.

There are no public buses that run from these mentioned villages or from ours. So, our only option would be car. This is awful for the environment and Tad G is already overrun with cars at drop off and pick up. Paying for a school bus is unachievable for lots of families and when over sixties get free travel why don't children?

The environmental groups impact alone on their proposal is huge- the UK has challenging reduction in carbon emissions to deliver on- adding student's

independent cars to the mix is counterproductive - there needs to be funding allocated to these schemes. Even if the bus is a shared cost it will impact on number of cars on these trips, H&S impact, parking, village traffic etc.
Given future plans to provide more housing in Copmanthorpe, attracting more families to the village. Removing such provisions will only seek to force families to drive children to school. Adding further to congestion, pollution in York and the wider North Yorkshire Region. The proposal to increase personal car journeys by a two hundred fold factor is ludicrous and goes against net zero and clean air commitments!
It is environmentally unsustainable to bus pupils from York to Tadcaster. All pupils should attend their nearest school in York regardless.
Think of the carbon footprint when all these students start traveling in cars to get to school and the impact this will have on peoples working life. I won't be able to start work until later that morning (that is if my employer will allow it) if I have to travel in the car to take my child to school. This whole idea wrong on so many levels.
Removing the free bus travel will put many extra cars on the roads.
I believe that the removal of this transport service will result in fewer children being able to attend this fantastic school. It could also result in a huge increase in traffic on the roads in the mornings, not least on the A64, but also the smaller country lanes around Tadcaster. I strongly object to the removal of this bus service to Tadcaster Grammar school.
four key points:  1. We have two children both with different personalities and educational attributes. One goes to Tadcaster, one goes to Fulford. The choice was made based on which environment was most suited to each child to allow them to thrive.  2. Children will still need to be transported to school even if they leave Tadcaster and go to a York School. There will still need to be the same number of 'bus seats' so I struggle to see a massive financial benefit.  3. It will put more pressure on existing schools  4. Millthorpe doesn't have a sixth form which was a key reason for not sending either child there in the first place
This will stretch families in an economic crisis, disadvantage some children and also add to environmental issue with the increased need for car use and traffic. Ridiculous decision
Living in a small rural village, with no public bus service means that attendance at any secondary school, whether in York or North Yorkshire, requires transport. By removing transport to TGS this will increase the need for parents to drive their children to school resulting in more congestion on roads and the associated environmental impact. It would also increase the financial pressure on some families already struggling with the current cost of living crisis.
Removing the transport will result in children being taken to school in cars thus increasing congestion and danger around the school and having a much bigger environmental impact than children being taken to school together on a bus. With climate change being as it is, surely this is a backward step.
The pupil intake from the affected villages is significant and the removal of free transport would have a detrimental effect on the school. More parents will choose to drive their children to school, especially if they have multiple children there, and the roads around the school are already overwhelmed by the amount of traffic at drop off/pick up times.
My children live in Church Fenton and attend TGS. Due to the expense involved in the bus travel I drive them to school daily. The existing traffic at the school is horrendous, with car accidents (two in my family) which I believe are linked, to a large extent, to the significant number of cars. Any more cars travelling to the

school would make the situation worse, as well as being a safety issue the impact on the environment, both pollution in general but also on at TGS itself - exposing our children to high levels of exhaust fumes is something the council should be looking to alleviate by adding more free buses rather than exacerbating by forcing parents to drive their children to school due to the cost of buses.

I am disgusted with the Council for even suggesting such a change

I also feel the survey is biased, and unrepresentative, it does not allow for questions for parents of children at the school who are not directly impacted by this change.

### **Family Members/Friendship Groups**

I worry that when my child attends their friends won't because of the removal of transport.

I am a parent at TGS and former resident in York. There has been a long-standing relationship between TGS and York communities. The removal of transport links for York communities will have a negative impact on the school. Taking the opportunity for the York communities to attend will have a significant impact on student numbers and I worry about the impact on numbers and further funding and investment for the school. It is an excellent school and would be a loss of opportunity for York residents.

Our children have always been able to attend Tadcaster Grammar with friends from the same area. If others find the cost of their own travel too expensive then there's less likely to be children and friends joining the school my children are already attending

Tadcaster Grammar School is a brilliant school with a fantastic head teacher who really seems to be taking the school forward. When we visited Manor School on the open day, we did not have the warm feeling we did when we visited Tadcaster. There are a huge number of kids that go to Tadcaster from Copmanthorpe so would be a failure of York council to every family if this was taken away. Also, with Tadcaster grammar school being in the catchment area of Copmanthorpe this was one of the big reasons we moved here. We have 2 more children to come up from primary school as I have answered in my questions so this would negatively impact us as a family and potentially their education. I hope you consider these comments and I hope to see the free school buses to Tadcaster Grammar school continue

The school highly values our longstanding relationships with families and communities in this area, which would be significantly impacted by the policy change. This cost-cutting measure of removing discretionary transport for such a huge number of families wishing to continue their links with our school would be unacceptable.

We don't personally use this service however many of my boy's friends do. It would be awful if they suddenly weren't able to attend and had to change schools because this provision was removed.

Really important to keep the free transport to allow friendship groups to stay together. Children that attend St Mary's Askham Richard (York council) get split into many different directions and there are only a few in each year group. We live in a Bilbrough (so 1 mile from St Mary's) and Tadcaster is our catchment school. Children that live in Askham Richard, where the primary school is, their catchment school is York High, I think. We could have chosen Manor, but no bus from our village. We also massively preferred Tadcaster. Children should not be discriminated against for living on a boundary.

My child in year 6 has applied for Tadcaster and now it's a worry I won't be able to afford a bus pass when her brother would start Tadcaster, who is in 3 at the moment. But the thought he might not be able to attend which would not be by choice is very worrying

Families rely on this service for their children to attend a remote school that is within their own catchment area. This choice would be removed from some families as many parents work and would not be able to provide transportation to and from school. I am in favour of keeping the bus service as it is now.

It is completely unfair to remove the free bus service. Tadcaster grammar has always been our first choice for sending our daughter, as it has been for many of her friends. My daughter is due to be assessed for autism - she is also extremely anxious. This uncertainty is adding to her anxiety as it is now something her and her friends are worrying about. It would also add additional financial strain to our family or time constraints if we need to provide our own transport or even look for a different school.

Parents who sent child to TGS will have done so with the expectation they would be equally able to send younger siblings there. If the free bus is removed you will be forcibly splitting up siblings. At very least the free transport should be extended to all siblings of children currently getting the free bus.

Would a compromise be for York to pay the proportion of the cost equivalent to what they would pay to transport the child to the York school with parents 'topping up' the additional cost?

This would reduce the cost to York to the same level as the proposed policy (assuming it is wholly effective) whilst ensuring parents had the option of sending children to TGS without taking significant financial hit.

I'm not in the direct catchment area but my children's friends are. My children would be directly impacted by the loss of friends and peers. If I were in catchment so would have no choice as to move schools as transportation is limited, the cost is a lot and I can't be there to take them everyday

We live within the catchment area for Tadcaster Grammar School (in Steeton) however our children attend Copmanthorpe Primary School. If the free bus service ceases to operate then it is unlikely that our children's friends will attend secondary school with them. This will prove incredibly difficult for our daughters if they do not know any other pupils on starting secondary school.

By removing this service, us parents are forced to make a difficult decision on whether to find alternative transport arrangements or send our kids to a potentially poorer quality school away from their friends where our children will have a poor experience, ultimately leading to reduced attendance and poorer exam performance, damaging our children's future prospects. If we are to drive our kids to Tadcaster, as well as being environmentally damaging, this would cause us to potentially have to miss work, and for some this would simply not be an option. The only other alternative, which may not even be available is to pay for this bus service however for working class parents already struggling to make ends meet, there is no way for some of us to afford this service.

**Safety**

We live in Tadcaster, just within the 3 mile boundary and therefore are not eligible for free school transport despite this being our only local catchment area school and a walking route which we would argue is not a safe walking route. We have always had to pay for the bus to school for our two boys during their time at the school and hence we strongly disagree with the fact that families living within the City of York area should be able to access free school transport when there are other more local schools, many of which have bus routes already in operation. At a time when essential public services are being reduced and even removed due to council pressures, we do not think families should receive funding for free school transport when attendance at the school is purely due to parental preference.

I am concerned that pupil numbers attending TGS will go down and that will affect the school's future and my child's education.

Tadcaster Grammar school is not close to the major bus routes and would be difficult and challenging for students to travel there without the school bus. I also feel there would be several safety issues without the school bus.

I strongly disagree with the removal of the free transport. TGS is an excellent school and the children from Copmanthorpe already attending have the safety of travel direct from the village to school. I feel sad, angry and upset that this option could be taken away from my Year 4 child due to budget cuts to a service that has operated for over 20 years. Please do not take away this opportunity for our children to attend an excellent school

Our son has an EHCP at school and the dedicated transport provision would provide him with a safe mode of transport to school

As all the schools are more than 3 miles away from Copmanthorpe and not a safe walk we would need transport to whichever catchment school we went to be it in York City or North York's area. Currently the provision is limited to the schools we could select and therefore discriminating against us on the free choice of quality catchment area school. I also believe that York city schools do not have the capacity to take all the current Tadcaster Grammar school intake from the mentioned York City council areas. If a volume chose to select a York. It's school due to lack of free or affordable transport, the York City schools would not have capacity to take them. This proposal just feels very short sightedly thought out. Finally, by limiting this to commencing 2025, you would be impacting those families who chose the school for older siblings who still attend the school. The consideration, if sadly approved, should be from Sept 2028 new starter's onwards to allow siblings attendance to continue under the free transport condition.

Due to the location of the school, door to door transport is required for safety. By removing free transport families may have to send younger siblings to another school which can cause issues such difference in term dates.

There are not enough spaces in York schools to cope with the pupils who would no longer opt for Tadcaster Grammar due to the bus costs.

Due to the location of my house, if the discretionary bus is removed then my child may have to walk into the village along an unpaved, dark road with regular HGV's travelling along it.

**Mixed Reasons**

This will be a significant impact for parents and children in Copmanthorpe as most children have gone and expected to go to Tadcaster Grammar School. Many parents move to Copmanthorpe to be within the catchment area of the school. incurring a cost for travel to Tadcaster school but not to a York school (assuming free travel to a York school is provided) would lead to a fracturing of friendship groups and a split of those that can afford to pay against those that cannot.

I understand the need for savings throughout all areas of council commitments, but with my children already attending oversubscribed schools in York, I do not see the logic, other than on a financial scale of removing this transport benefit for families in these villages. All that will happen is you will limit choice for families and put increased pressure on the oversubscribed schools in York. With the proposed building work over the next 5 years in and around York, some already activated, I see this as short term methodology that we will lead to significant issues in the next 5 years. As I stated I understand the rationale, but I view this as a very short sighted, poorly thought through option. A yes or no decision on the question is simplistic, but again I am aware of the complications of a blended offer. I hope that whatever the decision, council members thoroughly consider all options and financial plan and publish the reasoning for the decision, including the 5 to 10 year inclusion of housing growth with the city of York.

The cost of education at the school is already great enough as it is. The free bus is a safe method of transport for my children. I would not want my fresh starting year 7 having to get on a public bus. You don't need a CRB check to get on a bus, you do to work on a school.

This decision would significantly and disproportionately impact those pupils from low income families and reduce their choices for their children's education. I am also concerned about the capacity for Millthorpe to take in a large number of additional students; it is already a very large school on grounds with limited space for expansion.

We live close to the school and my child walks there so we are not directly affected by the proposals. However, I feel removing the free bus services will have a real impact on families and the school. If siblings already attend you would most likely want your younger children to attend but the removal of the free bus service might make this difficult especially in the current cost of living crisis. I feel it would also really destabilise the school as a whole if families have to choose York school. I worry it could result in staff redundancies and a fracturing of the strong links between the school and feeder schools if the proposals were to go ahead.

The removal of the free transport would reduce my daughter's choice especially as I would also have to consider the financial implications. For my daughter Tadcaster Grammar School was the only school she wanted to go to so the chance of that not been possible would be very upsetting for her.

This is disproportionately affecting families from poorer backgrounds and is encouraging use of cars as there is no public transport option from Acaster Malbis to Tadcaster Grammar. Removing the transport is removing choice and ultimately lessening students' education performance and success if the school will better need the needs of students.

It reduces the choices parents have on which secondary to send their children to. We ruled out other schools because of there being no school bus. As a working parent I have no choice but to rely on school buses. Public transport buses from Bishopthorpe are useless, late, don't turn up, and the timings and frequency put a child's safety at risk because they have to stand alone for up to an hour. Having a school bus which we have to pay for is also our if the question because the cost for a year is hundreds. Add that up over the years a child attends a school and it adds up to thousands of pounds. Who has that money? We chose TGS because it meets the needs of our children who are very happy there. A school should be chosen because a child will feel safe and happy there. Not because of school buses. Children's well-being and education come first. They have had enough to deal with because of COVID. Please don't go changing more things.

**Distance**

I do not drive and this would make schooling very difficult. It is not a sustainable option to remove school transport.
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We live in a remote area. There would be no alternative way to get to school.
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**Affordability**

I would need to know how much a public bus or paid for school bus would cost
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I don't know why these areas are getting free school transport when children living in villages much closer to the school have to pay for their transport to school. Either make it the same for everyone or review your catchment areas for the school.
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I think this proposal is absolutely disgusting, families are struggling enough with the costs of living and low wages.
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This is such a benefit to Tadcaster Grammar. Removing it or making people pay will really make people think about sending their child there
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This would be very difficult as I would have children at two schools as I couldn't afford the transport costs. I cannot believe York council would do this as a reduction measure it is at a detriment to our children.
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I know you are looking for savings but I don't think this is the way to do it. It penalises children and their access to education during a cost of living crisis.
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It would have a big impact financially as I am a single parent, I will have to pay for 2 bus passes for my son, currently in year 7 and his brother, currently in year 5.
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We live in Dringhouses so have to pay for the school bus. I have always felt it divisive that other families with a York postcode have their travel passes paid for. After all my taxes subsidise these costs. Bishopthorpe is in the catchment of an outstanding catchment school and Copmanthorpe children are in catchment for 2 schools in York.
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I think this would be disastrous for the school. Because of its location, its students come from a wide area and it would massively affect all of those families were free transport stopped. If they then didn't send their children to TGS because of the cost, the school would be hugely affected and couldn't offer the excellent education it currently does. I feel the proposal to remove the concessionary transport is very short-sighted of the council and I totally disagree with it. TGS is an excellent school and needs the support of the council to allow students to attend.
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The idea of free school travel has existed in many parts of the UK for many years / generations. By removing this benefit, it reduces the ability of low income families to be able to send their children to a school that offers them an opportunity to succeed.
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I was very fortunate growing up that I lived in a village where the secondary school provided free bus travel. Without that I doubt my parents would've been able to send me there and I would not have ended up attending university and work in a professional employment sector (Engineering).
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it would be a scandal to remove this.
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The removal of this long established discretionary transport would mean many students would be no longer able to financially afford to attend TGS. This would be such a shame as the school prides itself on relationships with the communities it serves.
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We live in Woodthorpe and have to pay £500 per child per year to travel on the bus to Tadcaster Grammar. There is only one school in our catchment area - York High School. Copmanthorpe and Bishopthorpe have more than one choice AND get free travel to Tadcaster which I think is very unfair. If one village pays, the others should too and vice versa, I don't think it is fair how we have had to pay
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<p>over £3k (so far) in bus travel, yet another village (Woodthorpe is closer to the school than one) get it for free.</p>
<p>Would this be the existing £2/single trip as on public buses? For a family with three children that would cost £12/day which is £2340/annum! Completely unaffordable.</p> <p>As a result, the car traffic volumes would be significantly increased on the roads leaving Copmanthorpe and the approaches to TGS which already suffers from traffic issues at school pick up and drop off times.</p> <p>It is already very expensive to fund children through secondary school with the purchase of uniform, equipment, books, trips etc. Adding this cost would result in more parents not being able to afford trips resulting in the school being unable to subsidise and run them. This will have a direct impact on the education of the children.</p> <p>If this results in changes to the volume of pupils choosing TGS and other York secondary schools, have you impact assessed how the schools will cope with the decreased/increased demand respectively? How will you cope with the volume of pupils who are unable to obtain a place in their first choice school and then progress through the appeals process? How do the planned new housing schemes in and around York impact the predicted pupil volumes at TGS and York secondaries?</p>
<p>You can't do this. My child is so happy in year 7. The younger brother MUST go to the same school. We cannot afford the bus.</p>
<p>We already have to pay for a sixth former, we pay rates, just what are we paying for?</p>
<p>Families who are not in receipt of means tested benefits are also feeling the strain with the cost of living crises, I think making them pay would be another nail in the coffin for some families, it's not fair that their children's education could suffer because of this.</p>
<p>I have always felt it wrong that Tadcaster pupils have to pay for transport to attend their local school and those from further away get free transport. I realise removing this free transport could affect the school's growth but it does seem very unfair on local pupils and their families.</p>
<p>It's been there for other school years, it should stay. TGS will have fewer pupils who will attend. We have no other benefits coming into the house but are on low income. Everyone thinks we all have a lot of money because we live in Copmanthorpe but not all of us are on high incomes.</p>
<p>To offer this as a catchment school and then take away the free bus is unfair it discriminates and puts more financial pressure on family's who are already struggling.</p>
<p>Tadcaster grammar school is the main choice of school for children in copmanthorpe. I think it is appalling that the school are considering removing the transport. This removes choice of school from a number of children and puts families under pressure of paying school transport in an already difficult economic time</p>
<p>This survey is very hard for parents to comment on as you don't provide information on the current cost per child to have subsidised transport. You mentioned a concessionary bus pass, but do not say how much this would cost. There are currently no bus services that run reliably through copmanthorpe to Tadcaster school, and if there were, they could not currently accommodate the volume of pupils. You also don't allow a respondent to answer reliably. Some questions don't make it clear if you would consider moving your current child at Tadcaster or if you're referring to future children's attendance. Current pupils maybe removed, despite having transport paid, due to the logistics of having children at two or three different schools.</p>
<p>I fully recognise the requirement for the council to seek to deliver budget savings, however there would be many other alternatives I would suggest are explored prior to pursuing this proposal. This change, if it materialises, would have a significant impact upon our own family life. We have one child currently at</p>



<p>Tadcaster Grammar school, with a further two due to start attending over the next 5 years. It's an unreasonable expectation to increase financial hardship for our family if we would become expected to fund this service, particularly against a backdrop of long term scale council tax increases and reduced service provision</p>
<p>I simply could not afford to pay the school bus every day</p>
<p>I think it is completely wrong to withdraw the free school buses. I think parents with children still at Copmanthorpe primary school will opt for a school in the city of York catchment area that provides the free transport especially when they realise how much they would have to pay for a bus pass as we do with our eldest in Sixth Form. This will then have a detrimental effect on Tadcaster Grammar School, which in my opinion is a very good school and doesn't deserve to be put in this position.</p>
<p>Free discretionary transport speed be a right fit all children to be given an equal chance to attend school. Removing this would put a financial and logistical burden on many families in the affected area, which should be prevented at all costs. The free discretionary transport to Tadcaster Grammar School MUST remain in place for the benefit of the children.</p>
<p>It is bad enough I have to send my children to Tadcaster as the other catchment school (York High) is not good enough standard. I chose Tad over Manor partly because of the free bus as I can't afford to pay for 3 bus passes. It is not an option to have one child at a different secondary school to his 2 brothers. York needs another secondary school near Askham Bryan that is of a decent standard like Fulford to cater for all the children in this area. York High would not be able to take all the children from round this area if they didn't go to Tadcaster so we are being forced to use Tadcaster.</p>
<p>Youve asked if parents would be willing to pay without giving any indication of how much it would be!!</p>
<p>Reducing choice further and putting financial burdens on parents is not the way to go. How can we level up with the south under this and many other terms?</p>
<p>When we sent out first child to TGS we did not just choose the school for them, we choose the school for our family. Removal of free transport would put us in an impossible position whereby we have to choose between sending our children to different schools or struggling to manage financially. One of the major factors in choosing the school was the peace of mind that our children would be collected safely from the village and taken directly to school on designated school transport. Tadcaster Grammar is our catchment school and I feel strongly that, whilst this is the case, transport should be provided. The transport links from the village to other York schools are not sufficient to accommodate any additional number of children (who would be entitled to free transport anyway as it is further than 3 miles), and neither is there space in the York schools. This is even before any of the planned new housing estates in the village. This proposal is going to have a huge impact on families who are already struggling financially and runs the risk of creating a class divide between those who can afford to make a choice regarding their children's education and those who cannot, despite the school still being a catchment school.</p>
<p>We think in times of austerity that for a family to find finance for bus it would impact on child wellbeing and their option to access beneficial extracurricular activities. We feel it will have a detrimental impact to society on the school in terms of intake</p>
<p>People move to Copmanthorpe and surrounding villages in order to get their kids in to TGS and it's a long tradition that kids from these villages attend TGS. Taking the free transport away would prevent those unable to pay for transport from benefitting from TGS education.</p>
<p>It feels like once again, schools - and the families they serve - bear the brunt of cost saving exercises. Even completing this survey feels futile because it simply comes down to reducing costs rather than serving communities.</p>
<p>I want to go to the same school as my brother but I don't think we would be able to afford to pay so it's not very fair.</p>

I was looking forward to my sister coming to school with me but my parents might not be able to afford it.
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### **Quality of Teaching**

Tadcaster is an excellent school and far better than the other local schools to us. There are no alternatives for those in Copmanthorpe. They provide excellent Pastoral care and the children are very happy. By removing the choice to attend, you are taking away choice from those who can't afford a bus pass or who cannot drive their children there each day. Therefore, creating inequality.
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Fail to see how limiting schools offer to children makes anything better.
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As a staff member at TGS for many years, I support the views of the school that we highly value our longstanding relationships with the communities which may be impacted by this potential change in policy.
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Young people and parents should have the option and opportunity to send their child to TGS based on its academic and pastoral care which should not be hampered by whether there is a bus service available from what i consider to be a very local and accessible area.
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Please do not remove the bus service. Tadcaster is a wonderful school my child is very happy and settled here. The SEN at the school is the reason my next child going to the school.
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This would deplete the number of local nycc children able to attend an excellent school.
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A huge number of students at Tadcaster Grammar School rely on this free provided transport. The school is excellent and relies on these students attending. Without them, the education of all the rest (a further 1250) would suffer immeasurably as the school would not have sufficient funding to continue to operate in the way it does now - staff, sixth form, GCSE courses would all be under threat. It would be unforgiveable.
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Gives children freedom to start been and adult and allows them to have a better leaning experience as a better school
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We will make our decision for our child's school based on her needs. However, I have a concern that should the free service be removed then the fall in usage may make the service no longer financially viable. If the service were withdrawn part way through my daughter's school career (as usage gradually reduces as fewer children have free travel) this would have a detrimental impact on her education.
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In addition, Tadcaster Grammar school is generally the preferred school for children in Copmanthorpe, withdrawal of the free transport service would increase car usage transporting children to school which is incompatible with City of York's declaration of climate emergency and steps taken to combat this.
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Having looked around the catchment City of York schools three times over the past few years and compared to Tadcaster, the standard at Tadcaster appears much higher. The school bus is a fantastic service as parents know children are safe getting to and from school without the issues of public transport or extra cars driving to school. The cost of paying for transport would make getting children to school difficult for most people, especially if having to pay for more than one child's transport. A lot of reason people move to or stay in Copmanthorpe with secondary school children is the Tadcaster Grammar catchment and free bus service.
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Millthorpe has worse GCSE results than Tadcaster and would have been a worse choice for my child as he has SEND problems and it is well known in Copmanthorpe that SEND children tend to have to leave Millthorpe as it fails to accommodate them. Unless your child is baptised, it is believed locally than Manor is unattainable. Fulford is unlikely to be able to take any more children due to the new housing estate next door. Ditto Manor. York High School has an exceptionally poor reputation locally and if that's the plan - to force these children to go to that school to make it financially viable - I expect this issue to blow up. Copmanthorpe Primary is already haemorrhaging pupils because it's too expensive to live here. If
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York High School is the most likely destination for village children, parents will just move and it will as good as shut.
It is clear that this will be disastrous for TGS in terms of student numbers falling, impacting the number of teachers and ultimately the quality of education provided along with the schools GCSE and A level results. Finally, it will narrow the diversity of the school intake. I cannot think of how this could not create a vicious circle.
The offer of Tadcaster as a secondary offer was one of the reasons we moved to the village with young children. I have always held Tadcaster grammar in high regard and staff seem proud to work there
We have moved to Copmanthorpe so that our son can eventually go to Tadcaster Grammar School. The city of York Council school that we are in the catchment area for is not good enough.
The letter is not correct, the school has had a free bus service a lot longer than indicated and this would affect our children's education. Tadcaster has excellent facilities, especially sporting that are unrivalled.
This is a cost saving exercise that would drive up attendance at York schools and reduce the quality of teaching due to increased numbers
The STAR MAT and the school do not support the proposal to remove the current discretionary transport arrangement.
We highly value our very long standing relationships with the communities which may be impacted by this potential change in policy.
If agreed, the removal of the discretionary transport would likely have a significant impact on the school in the future.
We strongly disagree with this proposal. Families have the right to choose an education for their child and those in outlying villages to Tadcaster have opted for the excellent education at TGS for decades. This will destroy all relationships with those villages and totally alter the intake for TGS. It may result in lower numbers on roll and consequently staff cuts, reduced curriculum offer. This simply cannot happen.
As explained above, one of the strengths of TGS is that it draws students from across a range of areas and provides a fantastic education on the site - I would be concerned about the school's viability and mix if students were no longer travelling from those areas.

### **General Comments**

A disgrace on every level
I feel very strongly against the cutting of the bus provision from Copmanthorpe to Tadcaster Grammar School.
I have chosen to move to and raise my children in a semi-rural area and with this choice came the main secondary option of a school set away from a large built up area, and with open green spaces surrounding it. It is unreasonable to suggest that as both Tadcaster and Millthorpe are 'Good' rated schools they are entirely interchangeable. If, as was stated in the consultation meeting that all the schools we could apply for (York High, Millthorpe, Manor and Tadcaster) are equally rated as 'Good' so it will be fine for Copmanthorpe children to just go along to a York school instead of Tadcaster, why do we put down choices of where we want them to go?
There is also no sixth form provision at Millthorpe (the school suggested as the main one to take Copmanthorpe children instead) which is important to us as a family as we want to provide the best opportunity for our children to continue their education through A-levels and beyond and being able to continue their education at the same school feels crucial.

<p>There is a different school community feel to each school and Tadcaster fits perfectly with the way of life that my Copmanthorpe raised children lead. It just seems that this has been identified as an easy option to cut funds with no real thought or modelling on what it means to the children, their families, Tadcaster school itself and Copmanthorpe and surrounding villages. Is it really worth disrupting a lovely community and negatively impacting a fantastic school in Tadcaster by taking away a large cohort of their pupils (currently 225 out of 1,300 are from this area and use these bus routes) to make a saving of 0.0184% of the amount of money the council need to save annually?!</p> <p>I would put the discretionary bus service that is provided into the category of 'things that make life better' and makes me feel proud of the country and area that I live in. Is this really something that we as a society are willing to cut just as a cost saving exercise?</p>
<p>Yet another ridiculous suggestion to change something that doesn't need changing.</p>
<p>There is no other realistic way to transport students from small villages to a rural secondary school. Older siblings will have had the benefit of free transport. There will be a significant detrimental impact on the school.</p>
<p>As a teacher at Tadcaster Grammar, I know that many families depend upon the service; it would be detrimental to so many were this to be withdrawn!</p>
<p>There's no other way to travel to TGS from Copmanthorpe. There's no school transport to the York catchment school' either - just a service bus and requirement to cross a major road near the city centre. Are there enough places at Millthorpe to accommodate all the children who would have to apply there from Copmanthorpe?</p>
<p>In no rural community school buses are essential to keep the communities working</p>
<p>No longer being able to attend Tadcaster Grammar from Copmanthorpe would change the whole character of the village. There is no suitable alternative that does not involve a difficult commute and most of the other alternatives do not have a sixth form. The size and ethos of York College is not a suitable alternative for many children.</p>
<p>The school bus provides transport to go to the school that most in my village attend. The bus drivers are great. I do not want them to lose their jobs.</p>
<p>Perhaps if the council were able to reduce the number of free taxis for such a small number of students, that money could be better spent on a greater number of children.</p>
<p>The catchment York school for Copmanthorpe children is currently Millthorpe School and children attending Millthorpe from Copmanthorpe currently receive a free bus pass so I fail to see any significant cost saving by removing the free travel to Tadcaster. Also, if all children from Copmanthorpe were to go to Millthorpe from 2025 onwards there is no bus service from the village that will be able to cope with the numbers of children wishing to catch the bus.</p>
<p>This will have a detrimental impact to TGS and I strongly oppose it.</p>
<p>It would be disastrous if the bus was stopped as I love going to TGS</p>
<p>Tadcaster School has had a long tradition of serving the families and communities of villages and areas in York and it would irrevocably alter our school to no longer have these young people within the school community and ultimately be a loss to the city of York who benefit from this ongoing relationship.</p>
<p>All children attending should have free travel including those from West Yorkshire who actually live closer than some north Yorkshire children to the school</p>
<p>The STAR Multi Academy Trust and the school do not support the proposal to remove the current discretionary transport arrangement.</p>
<p>We highly value our longstanding relationships with the communities which may be impacted by this potential change in policy.</p>

I think it will remove the school as a choice for many families and detract from the diverse mix of students who are already here. I live outside catchment near Sherburn and feel the choice of where to send children should be accessible to all
It would be the death knell for attracting students from these villages and the school would be a lot worse off for it.
We highly value our longstanding relationships with the communities which may be impacted by this potential change in policy.
Yet again those in rural, semi-rural communities being penalised. Having one child currently attending with free travel then the prospect of paying for a second is unfair. Services are and continue to be cut and those on the "outskirts" tend to suffer the most. However, in reality this is not free transport, its already paid for through council tax and other methods of extraction.
It would be detrimental to the school and families
Appears to be an underhand attempt to reduce TGS numbers, ultimately threatening the existence of the school.
I strongly do not support the proposal to remove the current discretionary transport arrangement. I feel that if agreed, the removal of the discretionary transport would likely have a significant impact on the school in the future.
It is not acceptable that you are considering keeping the transport arrangements to other York/North Yorkshire schools, but removing it for Tadcaster Grammar, when the school has a long standing relationship with the communities which would be affected.
I'm fully aware of the need to remove costs, but trust there are other places to review before taking these measures.
Links to the communities served by the existing buses are deep and long-standing, built over many decades. City and County boundaries have changed and may change again, yet our community links are longer and stronger. Removing the bus may seem an easy financial saving yet the economy is false since costs will be incurred in creating new places elsewhere and servicing them when school capacity exists at Tadcaster. Please preserve this important community service.
I attended TGS as a student in 1990 with free bus service, it is an excellent school and I purposely stayed in Copmanthorpe so I could send my own children there. As well as being an excellent school my choice was made because of the safe bus transport that is for the school children ONLY and drops them off in the school grounds, and because the school is in the countryside so my child is safe on school grounds all day and cannot leave unless they are on the school provided bus. I did not want my children attending millthorpe (which is the only other school we are entitled to) because it would mean them getting on a public bus with strangers and using a very unreliable public bus service. My child would have to walk from a public bus stop to the school and is free to leave the school grounds and wander into town. I do not consider this safe nor reliable for my children. There is a current cost of living crisis and I have to make daily decisions over what I can afford, unfortunately school transport is not something I can budget for. I strongly believe my children's education is the most important thing and it should not be based on whether we can afford to send them somewhere or not, and I do not want to have to send my youngest child to a different & less safe school to their sibling because I have to try and afford transport costs. TGS has had a relationship with Copmanthorpe for decades and I am appalled that this is being threatened due to cost saving. Surely there are better ways to save some money that affecting children's education. I would rather see a charge for green bin collections or less money spent implementing case management systems like oracle. Please think about the massive negative impact you will have on the children of Copmanthorpe and consider cost saving elsewhere.
It is the closest non church school to us and therefore should be free to access otherwise it is discriminatory

<p>First, I believe that not including people's views who won't be affected, basically all parents of Tadcaster pupils who don't have a child lower than year 6 just allows you to limit people who do have strong views, which is a disgrace, to comment! Children should be able to attend school without the need to pay, which they have to pay if you are not providing transport. There are no secondary schools within walking distance of Copmanthorpe. I suggest you look for savings elsewhere within the council. You could start with the roadworks on Tadcaster road! Total disrupt for a year; you never see anybody actually at work and what has been achieved I don't know! Is there nobody in charge to monitor works carried out, and penalty clauses put in place for late completion. Is there no dodgy in the council that actually monitors how the money is currently spent. I am sure York council did its job properly and cost effectively, you could save enough money without affecting the poor kids and their right to an education!</p>
<p>The bus pass should be means tested. It doesn't feel right that children of affluent, middle class families (in places like Copmanthorpe) should receive a state benefit in the form of free bus passes. However, lower income families should be able to get support here.</p>
<p>It will give the school a disadvantage at recruiting students from within the catchment area.</p>
<p>It's unfair to remove the transport just because boundaries were changed. Copmanthorpe is still in catchment and the school is over the walking distance, so transport should be provided.</p>
<p>Both my partner and I work full time and this is enabled by having free school transport from our village. If this is stopped it would have a significant effect in the school choice for our children. The alternative of sending them to our catchment school appears to be a worse outcome for our children's education.</p>
<p>The school has long-standing relationships with the communities which would be affected by this change. I live in an area just adjoining the York boundaries, and my child has strong friendships with children from the adjoining York villages and communities. The change would significantly disrupt and negatively impact the school community. Outer York contains a diverse range of villages and communities whose geography and relationships cross York and North York's boundaries and it's important that the administration of both areas recognise the realities of communities' lives beyond administrative divisions. This proposal would significantly increase car transport and divide communities and families, causing unnecessary disruption, upset and harm to many young people and their families.</p>
<p>Would the bus to Millthorpe from Cop be free?</p>
<p>My child does not have an EHCP but that is because Tad has made reasonable adjustments to meet his needs and an EHCP is not required. The school has a fantastic trauma informed approach which unfortunately York schools do not. Tadcaster is an excellent school and removal of free transport would put it out of reach of Bishopthorpe children. This would be to the detriment of those children and the historic links with Bishopthorpe, and to the detriment of the school. I <b>STRONGLY DISAGREE</b> with the proposal.</p>
<p>We are a family living in Copmanthorpe and I feel very strongly that removing our free bus service to TGS is disgraceful.</p> <p>TGS has long served the community of Copmanthorpe, as a village on the cusp of York/North Yorkshire. Unlike surrounding villages, we do not receive the same access to the best of York's schools and are not provided with good transport to those we do get. Geographically, TGS is far easier to access than other schools in York.</p> <p>Should the free bus service be removed, many families simply will not be able to afford a bus pass, will not be able to drive their child to and from school due to work, and will be forced to look for another school. In the consultation, you ask if we would send our child to a York school - what choice would we have?! However, I highly doubt you would be able to accommodate all those extra children in York schools. Fulford is already oversubscribed and not in our</p>

catchment area, Manor is a challenge to get in, and Millthorpe is not accessible at all, and already serves a huge community. You are forcing parents to compromise their child's education or make their lives harder logistically or financially.

York and North Yorkshire are combining local authorities in 2024. I feel this money saving exercise is timed to use the current York/NY divide as an excuse to save money, when actually, the issue is non-existent given we in Copmanthorpe are in the catchment area, and the authorities are together.

This is not the first time York council have tried to make accessing TGS difficult. If the council were truly concerned about putting children's education first, they would either work together with NYCC/soon to be combined authority to ensure our children are able to access a fantastic catchment area school, or else ensure that York has sufficient good schools in our catchment area for our children to choose from.

I think it would be very disappointing to remove the bus transport from Copmanthorpe to Tadcaster Grammar School - this currently gives kids the independence to travel to school and I think of this transport wasn't free it would reduce the incentive for many to choose this school

I have year 5 & 6 children and we have been through the long and stressful process of deciding on a school, thinking we have all the pertinent information only to see an announcement for the proposed removal of funding very shortly after the admissions deadline. If this happens then we needed this information BEFORE the application deadline not AFTER and the admissions for York area schools should be open for those who need to reapply

These areas traditionally have always been large intakes for Tad. The removal of the free bus would have a big impact.

Strongly disagree with this proposal, Tadcaster buses have massively helped our son transition to secondary school, whereas public buses would have been overwhelming for him. We both work and buses enable us to do this. We're lucky but some families need any potential barriers to accessing school removing and school buses are a huge part of this.

This is removing choice from parents and is a particular concern that only those parents able to fund travel- either by taxi or making other arrangements- will be able to benefit from the education offered by Tadcaster Grammar.

The school needs a massive cash injection as the building has many portacabins, the disciplinary actions of putting students in small rooms needs to be scrapped and there needs to be a focus on removing drugs from the school. Children have left the school addicted to drugs and alcohol and this should be addressed. I've also had first-hand experience of police attending the school about drugs when I went to take a look round the school, hence the choice not to send my child there.

Is it really a big saving? Surely, we should be investing in our children's future not cutting services

There is not a secondary school within walking distance of Copmanthorpe.

Millthorpe school does not have a sixth form.

Planning has been passed for nearly 300 new build houses in Copmanthorpe where will these students be educated? Where will students of future new builds be educated.

I don't believe there is a York secondary school able to take all students from Copmanthorpe.

The council will still have to provide transport there is no secondary school within 3 miles.

The council will still have to pay for school transport... the Coastliner is often full after leaving Leeds before it reaches Tadcaster during busy times of the day.

Although Millthorpe school in mileage is closer, it's quicker to drive to TGS.
Part of the reason for returning to live in copmanthorpe was for our children to attend TGS. It is very concerning that transport may be withdrawn.
Please consider partially charging for the bus
All bus should be free or pay not some to pay some free, I'm already paying bus fare so doesn't affect me but it's not fair to have some to pay and other free just be as they choose to live where they do
We are not directly impacted by this decision, but I am still very disappointed to hear this plan is a possibility. It will disadvantage children from poorer families. Several of the impacted areas do not have any schools within walking distance, so a bus will still be required to get the children to school. It feels like you have chosen more affluent areas hoping to sneak this through with no regard for the poorer children who will suffer as a result.
Disgraceful, appalling, and disappointing
Their success within the community and surrounding areas is based on the catchment of children able to attend. Removing that will be detrimental to that and extremely difficult for a lot of parents
It would be a great loss to Copmanthorpe students if the school transport is removed. It would result in many children being unable to attend Tadcaster Grammar as the public buses have become very unreliable, and it is unfeasible for parents who work to give lifts and get to work on time themselves.
I can't believe we are considering this as cost cutting exercise. It is a great example of a lack of upstream thinking. The number of problems caused by this change will likely cost more in multiple ways (that are hard to measure) and the impact will be huge including the well-being and educational attainment of children. Please think through the unintended consequences here very clearly. Any increased barrier to the ease of children getting a good education is shameful
If free travel continues then students living in Tadcaster should also get it
We moved and settled in Copmanthorpe four years ago after detailed research on schools. Education was our number one priority.
Bizarre given the councillor putting forward the proposal says on the party page "I am standing for the City of York Council because it is the local community that I serve as a teacher. I have seen first-hand the effects that the cuts of austerity have had on communities throughout York" and, on the same page "He chose this route as an activist due to the damages he saw happening to children's education and learning caused by the Conservative government's policy of narrowing students' chances". Surely this is narrowing children's chances?
I consider this proposal to be a worrying development which threatens our community as the school is so central to this. Accessibility both in financial and in physical terms is crucial to our operation, especially in challenging times for many families.
Who knows if we'll even have a public bus route into York by 2025. Tad has strengths that vary to other schools in York. The removal of the bus for a school that is in catchment is frankly ill considered
Absolutely disgusting
My husband and I strongly support the free bus service for all of children and we don't support this proposal to remove this service. Thank you
It would be detrimental to the future of the school as I believe intake would decrease leading to a decrease in funding for the school.
TGS is a great school and community and has formed wide links with the schools, students, and parents in its catchment area. The schools being suggested if a free bus does not run are either oversubscribed (so suggesting to parents that their children can go there is mendacious!), will take a long time to get there due to York traffic or are not of a standard I would wish to send my child to. This is a political decision that will ultimately not save particularly much money but will cause stress, anxiety and hassle for parents and students who believe that TGS



is the best place to be schooled not to entire the financial implications to families if the free bus is removed.
My Husband and I are both retired. We were foster carers to a deaf child and adopted her .so removing a free school bus would place us in a choice of having to think about other schools
Concerned about overall impact on TGS from reduced pupil numbers.
TGS is a community based on the current catchment which is the foundation of the school. Taking away this transport to TGS puts a fantastic school in a very vulnerable position in terms of student numbers, the ethos, and the entire fabric of the school. We need to continue with the current bus service to TGS.
Whilst my children are not directly affected by this proposal, I have concerns over the wider impact on the school, as it would reduce pupil numbers, have an impact on funding for the school and potentially reduce the range of subjects they may be able to offer my child in the future. So indirectly this may negatively affect a much larger group of pupils than just those who live in the areas under consultation.
A great shame for all involved. Unnecessary stress added to students and parents in a time of such financial hardships.
Educational choice should be made taking account of all relevant factors including transport logistics. The cost of travel if outside local area should be borne by the parents not the taxpayer.
I feel very strongly that free busy travel to Tadcaster Grammar School should continue
Would massively impact on the nature of our school community
Tadcaster Grammar school is a highly sort after secondary education school of which both my elder children have attended and myself and husband have. There will be a high impact to York schools with the intake increasing with the additional intake from the areas currently using Tadcaster. The schools in the catchment for copmanthorpe are not as good as Tadcaster and will impact the education of all those children, I think the decision is appalling. This decision coming from a councillor putting forward the proposal says on the party page "I am standing for the City of York Council because it is the local community that I serve as a teacher. I have seen first-hand the effects that the cuts of austerity have had on communities throughout York" and, on the same page "He chose this route as an activist due to the damages he saw happening to children's education and learning caused by the Conservative government's policy of narrowing students' chances". Surely this is narrowing children's chances
I think this consultancy exercise is a sham, you have not shared the criteria for your decision.
This is a much needed service. Please reconsider this proposal.
If the catchment area of the school is effectively reduced this would have massive impact on the numbers attending and therefore the choice of subjects available to children attending may well reduce due to unavoidable redundancies to reduce costs because of reduced income - not a good outcome for anyone
I think this is a really bad idea and the accessibility and diversity of the school and catchment area is hugely enhanced by attracting and providing for students from a wide area and different backgrounds. This is very important for the school's inclusive identity and for our children's educational and social development. Where we live the school bus is important for our child's ability to get to the school and also his independence in being able to do so on his own, which has been a huge boost to his confidence.
Childrens future aspirations regarding attending the school will be blighted.
I am responding to this questionnaire as a former student of Tadcaster Grammar School who lived in Copmanthorpe and benefited from free home to school transport from the village. I now live in north Leeds and send my year 8 child to Tadcaster Grammar School, so retain a close connection with the school. I also previously managed the team at City of York Council who contracted home to school transport to the school so I am very familiar with the arrangements in

place.

Tadcaster Grammar School has a long and proud history of providing education to the villages south of York, far longer than from when the unitary authority was created in the 1990s. I am therefore very upset to learn that suggestions to remove discretionary travel from villages to the south of the school have been made.

Whilst I understand the financial pressure that City of York Council are under, the removal of such valuable links between these communities and Tadcaster Grammar School, will have an adverse impact on both the school and these villages - far greater than can be accounted for through any budget savings.

Having reviewed recent admissions information, I can see that many current York Secondary Schools already have capacity issues, which would be exacerbated should the council seek to attempt to make a saving on transport provision in one area. Fulford as an example which is one of the alternatives is already oversubscribed. As a consequence, it's clear that existing pupils may be displaced from current school catchments, resulting in repercussions on home to school transport provision and budgetary pressures in providing transport elsewhere.

I understand that Tadcaster Grammar School do not support the proposal to remove the current discretionary

transport arrangement. Like myself, they value our very long standing relationships with these communities which would be significantly impacted by such changes to home to school transport policy. If agreed, I understand that such proposals would have an extremely negative impact on a school which already struggles for funding. This would have a wider impact on all children currently attending the school.

To most living in villages to the south of York, the fact that Tadcaster Grammar School falls under a different local authority is of no relevance to them, they simply see Tadcaster Grammar School as their local secondary school and one they have strong connections to.

I would therefore urge City of York Council retain the current arrangements. At the very least, any decision should be placed on hold until after a general election when a new government may ease the funding situation within Local Government.

There is a long tradition of families from these areas sending their children to Tadcaster Grammar School and strong community links. The removal of transport would also have a significant impact on local families and it would, in addition, be detrimental to this school in the future.

Highly unfair for people with a child already attending TGS but also children in primary school- forcing families to have children across a minimum of 2 different high schools.

It would entirely change the school environment as the school is a product of the communities that attend there.

I think removing free travel removes parent and student choice about where they can send their children to school and can mean some children may have to travel further or attend a school that does not suit them.

The school bus service is a very important way of getting children of all social backgrounds to school and back safely. In the case of Tadcaster Grammar School, the children can be assured of a superb education with excellent teachers and facilities. Removing the free bus service will take this opportunity away, with those children from less advantaged backgrounds being the most significantly affected. The removal of the bus service would be a huge disservice to the community

## City of York Public Consultation – Free Discretionary Transport to Tadcaster Grammar School

Held at Copmanthorpe Primary School

28<sup>th</sup> November 2023 -

**City of York Council Representatives:** Cllr Bob Webb (Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education), Martin Kelly (Corporate Director of Children and Education), Maxine Squire (Assistant Director, Education and Skills) Barbara Mands (Service Manager, Education Support Services) Helen Garnham (Children and Young People Transport Manager)

**Public Attendance:** Tadcaster Grammar School Representatives - Andrew Parkinson (Headteacher), Cayte Mulhearn (Governor) and approx. 34 Members of the public

### Introduction

Cllr Webb introduced the City of York representatives and outlined the reasons for the consultation on the proposal to remove free discretionary transport to Tadcaster Grammar School. Cllr Webb explained that City of York Council have to make £10 million pounds in savings every year for the next 5 years in order to balance the books. There have been considerable increases in social care costs which have contributed to the overspend. Council finances are challenging and have reduced by 40%. Cllr Webb also explained that all Local Authorities in the Country were facing the same challenges and some had posted bankruptcy notices. All LA's were in a position where they had to remove any discretionary services in order to deliver the statutory services they have to provide.

### Key Points Raised and Responses

- Choice and fairness for children – Choice remains as there are options as a priority catchment arrangement is in place based on areas and distances.
- Peer Groups – siblings already attending so does create logistical problems for some families including the separation of siblings. Could this be reconsidered.
- Future capacity of vehicles travelling to Millthorpe – Agreed LA to review current public bus services to ensure there is capacity. Noted that public bus companies may not be willing to provide additional bus services at school times. No 13 service is a commercial operator and there is no guarantee this could run more cheaply as it would be priced accordingly by the operator.
- Capacity of places at Millthorpe School and impact on green spaces to build more classrooms– Agreed a capital outlay may be required. There is a some risk relating to capital investment as DfE funding would be required and whilst Section 106 contributions have been requested these takes time to work through. A current bulge in pupil numbers at secondary schools will also work its way through and reduce current pressure on places. However despite places being tight at Millthorpe the affected children could have been accommodated as they have priority access to this school.
- Modelling of School Places – this would be undertaken in more detail as part of the decision making process including the impact on transport services.
- Academic Results – Ofsted looks at a wide range of indicators, not just academic results, when judging the quality of schools. All York secondary schools are Ofsted good or outstanding.
- Safety of routes to schools – noted that some individual cases may need to be reviewed.

- Home to School transport policy wording - The villages would stay in the catchment area of TGS. The transport policy would be reworded using the words 'nearest suitable' or 'City of York catchment' school instead of 'catchment' school.
- Creation of more costs than savings to be achieved - It was a saving recommendation put up by the Liberal Democrat and Green party coalition originally. Once the 5 year phasing in period has finished there would be savings of approximately 184 k per year but noted that transport costs for eligible children/capital outlay may reduce the overall saving. City of York Council is one of the most underfunded LA's in the Country and if the Council goes bankrupt Central Government would remove all discretionary services immediately. Savings are required across the council so everything is being looked at currently. This proposal is in line with the removal of free discretionary transport to faith schools in 2017.
- Consultation with Tadcaster Grammar School – City of York has spoken to key stakeholders including Tadcaster Grammar School and is open to working with them to find solutions. CYC is unable to transfer the budget to NYCC. Headteacher of Tadcaster Grammar School acknowledged long standing relationships with the affected villages and confirmed there would be significant financial implications if the school funded the transport. Large numbers of cars come on to the school site already so this would be a concern. They will look at all options and make a formal response to CYC.

The meeting started at 6.30pm and closed at 7.30pm.



30th November 2023

By email:

To. <[cyp.transport@york.gov.uk](mailto:cyp.transport@york.gov.uk)>

cc. <[barbara.mands@york.gov.uk](mailto:barbara.mands@york.gov.uk)>

cc. <[Cllr.rwebb@york.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.rwebb@york.gov.uk)>

**Re: The City of York Council consultation regarding the removal of free bus travel from some villages within the Tadcaster Grammar School (TGS) catchment area from September 2025.**

I write in response to the above matter. This letter follows an earlier communication with Cllr Bob Webb dated 27th October 2023 (see pages 8 & 9). Please may I request that this letter, in its entirety, is accepted as evidence during the current live consultation?

The STAR MAT remains exceptionally concerned about the nature of the current consultation, and the assumptions it is predicated upon, plus the potential ramifications for the communities which will be affected if discretionary transport is indeed removed. The purpose of this letter is to elaborate on these areas and restate our position.

**A. The nature of the current consultation**

1. The consultation has been launched *in advance* of a full impact assessment. As such, it already has, and is likely to continue to cause widespread and undue concern amongst the many families within the Bishopthorpe, Copmanthorpe, Acaster Malbis, Askham Richard and Askham Bryan area whose children attend TGS, or who are likely to in the future. This concern was articulated in our letter to Cllr Webb on 27th October 2023 (see pages 8 & 9) as follows:

The STAR Multi Academy Trust

Respectfully concludes that there are multiple areas for consideration that should form part of your decision making, before going into the public domain. These include:

- o Should expressions of parental preference change away from TGS to a York secondary school, where will additional pupils attend in York Schools?
- o Whether the capacity needs within York will be met from existing funding or will DfE grant funding be required?
- o If students need to be transported across York, will any financial savings be realised?

CEO: Ian Yapp B.Sc. (Hons)

The STAR Multi-Academy Trust, Rose Cottage, Toulston, Tadcaster, North Yorkshire, LS24 9NB

Tel: (01937) 538538 ; [www.starmat.uk](http://www.starmat.uk) ; e-mail: [CEO@starmat.uk](mailto:CEO@starmat.uk)

- o Given the need to maintain transport as it exists for all year groups other than y7 in 25/26 (and then each new year group), alongside the above, has modelling been conducted to realise the limited additional funding to be released vs disruption caused?
- o There appears to be a plan to implement a change to wording to CYC Admissions Policy. How many other schools would be impacted by this change? Is it just TGS and if it is, has legal advice been sought as to any public law challenges the Council may face.

At the public consultation meeting on 28th November 2023, this was a consistent theme in the responses from the audience members; their concern that no effective modelling had taken place by CYC, and the absence of this and an associated commentary from the consultation materials. This is of note, and illustrates a lack of full transparency by CYC.

2. A social media post in January 2023, representing the then elected administration at The City of York Council, caused significant concern with our existing school families in the area. We were then obliged to write to these families to offer an assurance, with no lead from the council. This illustrates insensitive handling by the council concerning this matter.

3. The primary schools in the locality have not been fully informed about the remit of this consultation, beyond asking them to distribute the consultation publicity material. As such, primary school leaders and staff have been unable to counsel concerned parents and children in an informed manner.

4. We continue to receive expressions of concern in the locality about the impact on families who have recently submitted an application for TGS for both the children joining the school in September 2024, and other younger members of families who would wish to follow their siblings in subsequent academic years. For example:

I am a Copmanthorpe parent with one child in Year 8 (at Tadcaster Grammar School) and another at Copmanthorpe Primary, who is currently in Y3, and so will be affected by the loss of free transport to Tadcaster for 2027 entry.

I therefore had a phone conversation with Councillor Chris Steward (the Copmanthorpe ward representative on CYC) this evening in regards to the proposal to remove free bus transportation to Tadcaster. Mr Steward indicated that he expects the Council to cut the bus service (not his choice) given the budget constraints they are wrestling with, and the views of other Council members, and that the Council is expecting Tadcaster Grammar to take over responsibility for the transportation and charge back the parents for it - therefore he states that CYC doesn't expect more Copmanthorpe children to have to go to York schools.

Clearly, some parents are stretched to breaking point and will not be able to afford it, so the Council will still have to cover costs to transport those children to Millthorpe (our only other catchment school) and there are also fewer children to transport coming through anyway as Copmanthorpe's roll is dropping, so I think the proposed savings on the Tadcaster service are spurious on more than one count. However, even after 26 years of working in schools, I have never heard of a maintained sector school doing this before.

Are you intending to pick this up, please? If not, we'll have to consider our options, including potentially moving for our daughter's sake. I'm afraid Millthorpe is a 'hard no' from me.

5. The design of the survey tool which is being used to collect the view of stakeholders and the public is significantly limited in terms of the reliability and validity of the results it is likely to yield. For example, students are unable to make a full response to the questions, most of which do not survey their immediate thoughts about the consultation. School staff and members of the public are limited in the responses they can make by the survey tool design.

This point was reinforced after speaking with numerous members of the audience at the public consultation meeting when various stakeholders commented to the STAR MAT staff present that the on-line survey tool was severely limited by design and not fit for purpose.

6. At the public consultation meeting it was stated by the presenters from CYC that the STAR MAT had been asked to offer options for transport if the discretionary arrangement was removed. This has not happened. This assertion was challenged by the STAR MAT staff present, but the audience would have assumed that the MAT or school had not made a response to an approach by CYC. This is a concern and illustrates a lack of full transparency by CYC.

7. As detailed in The City of York Council Register of Interests , Councillor Robert Webb is noted as being currently employed by Archbishop Holgate's School (AHS), Pathfinder Multi Academy Trust. We respectfully submit that this is potentially a conflict of interest as AHS is a school which may be affected positively by a decision to remove the discretionary transport to TGS by receiving an increased Year 7 intake.

You will be aware that all of the above points, and many others concerning the *nature of the consultation*, were areas of concern from the stakeholders who attended the public consultation meeting. The 55 minute public consultation meeting and generic details available on the CYC website is not sufficient to address the level of concern in the locality.

#### **B. The assumptions the consultation is predicated upon.**

1. We are not aware of any costed and timelined proposals or plans to increase the PAN or measured capacity at any York secondary school. Significant capital build in York secondary schools to increase capacity for Year 7 intake has not taken place recently, nor are we aware of any plans to do so. Within the timescales considered by the consultation, it would be a false assumption that York secondary schools could increase physical capacity to accommodate an increase in student numbers in a timely manner. Therefore, the assumption that York schools could 'build their way out of' the problem caused by increasing school rolls is erroneous.

2. We are not aware of any publicly available consultation to change any York secondary school's admissions policy nor a mitigation strategy to cover the implementation period being tabled to form any part of the proposed consultation.

3. We are not aware of any intention for The City of York to change the catchment area of any of its schools. Tadcaster Grammar School has no immediate intentions to change its catchment area. However, it was suggested at the public consultation meeting that CYC was intending to change the wording of their admission policy from 'nearest catchment school' to 'nearest suitable school'. This was new information which members of the public were not aware of. This had not been shared, and had only been intimated under questioning at the pre-meeting between the STARMAT and the CYC. This is also not detailed in the current on-line consultation. This is a serious concern and illustrates a lack of full transparency by CYC.

4. Concerning the stated assumption that in the last few years more parents have applied for secondary schools in their York catchment school. This does not hold true, as applications from the York area for entry to Tadcaster Grammar School over recent years have not declined, and show no signs of doing so. (Ref: Cllr Webb email to Mr Ian Yapp - STAR MAT CEO, 30 OCT 23, see page 7).

5. At the consultation meeting it was suggested by the CYC representatives that it was believed that parents would pick up the cost of transport, as this had been the case when discretionary transport had been removed for children adopting for faith schools. However, we would like to remind CYC that if a faith school is the nearest catchment school, and a child lives outside the walking to school limit, they are still afforded free transport to school.

You will be aware that all of the above points, and many others concerning the *assumptions the consultation is predicated upon*, were areas of concern from the stakeholders who attended the public consultation meeting.

### **C. The potential ramifications for the communities which will be affected if discretionary transport is removed.**

We are exceptionally proud to be of service to the families in the communities of Bishopthorpe, Copmanthorpe, Acaster Malbis, Askham Richard & Askham Bryan and highly value our shared and long history of providing education and care to many generations of families.

1. We already know that many families in this geographical area will not have the household income to pay for bus and/or private car transport to Tadcaster Grammar School, and so will effectively be denied their choice of preferred catchment school.

2. Existing and future residents of the Bishopthorpe, Copmanthorpe, Acaster Malbis, Askham Richard and Askham Bryan area are likely to have based, or will base, their choice to locate there on the assumption of their residence being in the Tadcaster Grammar School (TGS) catchment area with the associated free transport to the school.

3. Existing families with a child, or children, at TGS may face the decision, financial or otherwise, to send younger children to another secondary school leading to siblings of secondary age being educated in two, or more, different secondary schools.



4. Children with SEND and/or who are CLA whose families elect to send them to TGS will be unable to follow their peer groups from Year 6 into Year 7, despite CYC funding transport for these individual students. This will have a significant impact on the social and emotional aspects of the education and care for these students, as a minimum.

5. Families with the means to pay for transport will likely be able to send their children to TGS, those without these means will be unable to. This will widen the gap between the more affluent and less affluent families in our communities and reduce social cohesion. In addition, this does not fit with the STAR culture of inclusivity, as well as TGS's 'family first' approach.

6. A net reduction of students on the TGS roll, even a small number, caused by the removal of discretionary transport would mean the provision the school provides would have to be reduced significantly, severely impacting the school's ability to deliver the optimum education and care to ALL students.

You will be aware that all of the above points, and many others concerning *the potential ramifications for the communities which will be affected*, were areas of concern from the stakeholders who attended the public consultation meeting.

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### **In conclusion.**

The STAR MAT does not support the removal of the current discretionary transport arrangement.

We also seek assurances that:

- The STAR MAT and Tadcaster Grammar School are fully involved in all discussions and decision making, at whatever level, with regard to future services and consultations impacting our provision of services;
- If the decision is indeed made to draw down the discretionary transport arrangement from 2025, CYC is able to guarantee that a bus service would still run *to meet demand*, for both non-paying *and* paying passengers, for at least the period academic year 2025/26 to 2029/30 inclusive.

The Trust is most happy to discuss these matters to further clarify our position.

Please could I ask for your written confirmation that this communication in its entirety will be considered as part of the consultation process, by Wednesday 6th December 2023.

Yours sincerely,

*Ian Yapp*

**Chief Education Officer**, the STAR Multi-Academy Trust

e: [CEO@starmat.uk](mailto:CEO@starmat.uk) t: 01937 538538

*Andrew Parkinson*

**Headteacher**, Tadcaster Grammar School

e: [a.parkinson@tgs.starmat.uk](mailto:a.parkinson@tgs.starmat.uk) t: 01937 833466

Email: Cllr Webb to Mr Ian Yapp [Monday 30th October 2023, 08:35]

Dear Mr Yapp

Many thanks for your letter of 24th October outlining your concerns about the proposal to end discretionary free transport to Tadcaster Grammar School. In response to the points you have raised, the paper I am considering on 7th November is to give permission to start a formal consultation process on the removal of free transport. As you've said in your letter the current provision of transport is an historic legacy arrangement which predates local government re-organisation in 1996. The York villages which currently send children to your school all sit within the catchment areas for York schools and over the last few years we have started to see increasing numbers of parents applying for secondary school places in their York catchment school. This has led to the raising of the PAN at Fulford and also to capital works at Millthorpe and Manor in the last two years.

The current provision of discretionary free transport to Tadcaster Grammar is an anomaly in the York home to school transport policy. I understand the points you have raised about a decision being taken about admissions in 2024, but there would never be the perfect time to make a change like this and as with the decision to remove faith transport several years ago, this is to ensure that there is a consistent approach to the fair application of the local authority's duties with regard to the provision of discretionary home to school transport. Any changes that may be made will not impact on children who have opted to attend from September 2024 but will apply to the intake from September 2025.

You have asked whether legal advice has been taken and this is part of the process of developing any proposal which involves a change in policy.

Following the consultation a detailed evaluation paper will be written by officers early in the new year to inform my decision on whether to proceed with the proposal. This will fully address the details you have requested including the timeline, costed implications and impact assessment.

I would like to thank you for your understanding of the difficult context in which these decisions are having to be considered.

Kind regards,

Thanks,

Cllr. Bob Webb

Heworth Ward, City of York  
Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education  
07742 766168  
@Bob3142y



Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Councillor Webb,

**Re: Potential Consultation to withdraw free discretionary transport to Tadcaster Grammar School ("TGS")**

I am writing on behalf of the Trustees of The STAR Multi-Academy Trust (the Proprietor of TGS), with regard to the above matter.

We understand that in early November you will hold a 'decision making' meeting with regard to opening a public consultation to look into withdrawing free discretionary transport to Tadcaster Grammar School.

**Background**

As you will be aware for many years there has been such transport in place, to facilitate a joint catchment area within City of York and specifically the villages of Bishopthorpe, Copmanthorpe, Acaster Malbis, Askham Richard and Askham Bryan, with TGS named as a 'catchment school.'

Currently our school takes at least 50 Year 7 students each academic year who access the school by discretionary transport provided by York City Council. Approximately 250 students in total are being served by discretionary transport, to their preferred school, TGS. In future academic years, this demand will not reduce.

**Engagement**

We have already held a joint meeting with your officers including Maxine Squire and senior members of the York City Council transport team, along with Strategic Planning and admissions from North Yorkshire County Council to discuss this. I would assume that you have been fully briefed on the discussions/ conclusions/ outcomes of the joint meeting. However, for the sake of completeness these can be summarised as follows:

**Your decision**

The position as ratified by the Trustees of The STAR Multi-Academy Trust at is that the Trust:

1. Understands absolutely:
  - the financial constraints under which the Council needs to operate;
  - the need to consider longer term legacy issues such as this.
  
2. Submits however:
  - that by entering into public consultation you would cause widespread and undue concern amongst the many families within York whose children attend TGS. Regardless of the messaging they receive, they will be concerned about the short and medium term implications for their child or children.
  - Given the proposed timing of any consultation there will be a particular impact on families who have just submitted an application for TGS for both the children joining the school in September 2024, and other younger members of families who would likely follow their siblings in subsequent academic years.
  
3. Further understands:
  - there are no proposals to increase the PAN or measured capacity at any York secondary school;
  - neither a publicly available consultation to change any York secondary school's admissions policy nor a mitigation strategy to cover the implementation period are being tabled to form any part of the proposed consultation.

CEO: Ian Yapp B.Sc. (Hons)

The STAR Multi-Academy Trust, Rose Cottage, Toulston, Tadcaster, North Yorkshire, LS24 9NB

Tel: (01937) 538538 ; [www.starmat.uk](http://www.starmat.uk) ; e-mail: [CEO@starmat.uk](mailto:CEO@starmat.uk)

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Contd.

4. Respectfully concludes that there are multiple areas for consideration that should form part of your decision making, before going into the public domain. These include:
  - o Should expressions of parental preference change away from TGS to a York secondary school, where will additional pupils attend in York Schools?
  - o Whether the capacity needs within York will be met from existing funding or will DfE grant funding be required?
  - o If students need to be bussed across York, will any financial savings actually be realised?
  - o Given the need to maintain transport as it exists for all year groups other than y7 in 25/26 (and then each new year group), alongside the above, has modelling been conducted to realise the limited additional funding to be released vs disruption caused?
  - o There appears to be a plan to implement a change to wording to CYC Admissions Policy. How many other schools would be impacted by this change? Is it just TGS and if it is, has legal advice been sought as to any public law challenges the Council may face?
  - o The impact at the individual family level at this time of the cost of living crisis.
  
5. In summary recognises this decision may need to be taken, but we would request a full, properly assessed timeline, with costed implications and impact assessment, is brought forward to the most affected parties, before that consultation is progressed.

The Trust is most happy to discuss these matters to clarify our position.

Please could I ask for your written response by Friday 10th November to confirm if the consultation has been progressed.

Yours sincerely,

*Jan Yapp*

**Chief Education Officer**, the STAR Multi-Academy Trust

e: [CEO@starmat.uk](mailto:CEO@starmat.uk) t: 01937 538538

## Be Your Best Self

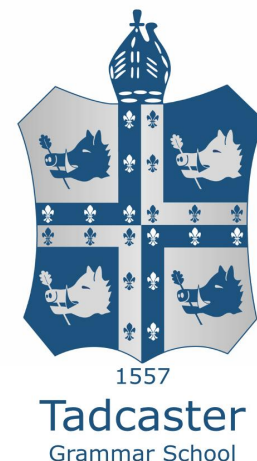
18th December 2023

By email:

To. <[Cllr.rwebb@york.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.rwebb@york.gov.uk)>

cc. <[cyp.transport@york.gov.uk](mailto:cyp.transport@york.gov.uk)>

cc. <[barbara.mands@york.gov.uk](mailto:barbara.mands@york.gov.uk)>



Dear Cllr. Webb,

**Re: The City of York Council consultation regarding the removal of free bus travel from some villages within the Tadcaster Grammar School (TGS) catchment area from September 2025.**

Thank you for meeting at Tadcaster Grammar School this morning. Please accept this letter as additional evidence to be considered in the above consultation.

Since January 2023 when the proposal was first leaked, staff of Tadcaster Grammar School and the Trust have sought to further connect and engage with the locality at every opportunity to assess their thoughts and feelings about this issue. You and your CYC team had a very minor exposure to this during the public consultation meeting at Copmanthorpe Primary School last month. Overwhelmingly, parents, students and the wider community are dismayed by the prospect of the current transport arrangement being cancelled, especially as they believe the rationale for this, beyond accountancy issues, is convoluted and ill-considered.

I do not wish to repeat our position as stated in detail in our two previous communications (dated 27th October 2023 & 30th November 2023), but as the consultation window draws to a close, I would like to offer the following for your consideration:

- i. We are exceptionally proud to be of service to the families in the communities of Bishopthorpe, Copmanthorpe, Acaster Malbis, Askham Richard & Askham Bryan and highly value our shared and long history of providing education and care to many generations. This *pre-dates* the establishment of the unitary arrangement of the City of York in 1996.

I would particularly like to focus on the issues of social justice, as in reducing and eradicating disadvantage, and supporting social mobility, to allow children and families to escape disadvantage. In addition, please also allow me to emphasise the outstanding service and commitment Tadcaster Grammar School and the STAR MAT offers families in the locality impacted in relation to these societal constraints, especially those who are most vulnerable. I hope this resonates with you in relation to one of the five Labour Party missions for Britain, '*Breaking Down Barriers to Opportunity*';



Headteacher: Mr A Parkinson B.Sc (Hons) M.Ed M.Sc  
Toulston, Tadcaster, North Yorkshire. LS24 9NB  
(01937) 833466 | [www.tgs.starmat.uk](http://www.tgs.starmat.uk)

ii. We already know that many families in this geographical area will not have the household income to pay for bus and/or private car transport to Tadcaster Grammar School, and so will effectively be denied their choice of preferred catchment school. Those who can pay, will pay. Those who cannot pay, will have their 'choice' made for them vicariously or involuntarily by proxy. This will widen the gap between the more affluent and less affluent families in York communities and reduce social cohesion;

iii. Existing families with a child, or children, at TGS may face the decision, financial or otherwise, to send younger children to another secondary school leading to siblings of secondary age being educated in two, or more, different secondary schools. Cohesion in the family will undoubtedly be severely negatively impacted as a result and this will clearly bring additional costs to families;

iv. Children with SEND and/or who are CLA whose families elect to send them to TGS will be unable to follow their peer groups from Year 6 into Year 7. This will again have a significant impact on the social and emotional aspects of the education and care for these students, as a minimum;

v. Existing and future residents of the Bishopthorpe, Copmanthorpe, Acaster Malbis, Askham Richard and Askham Bryan area are likely to have based, or will base, their choice to locate there on the assumption of their residence being in the Tadcaster Grammar School (TGS) catchment area with the associated free transport to the school. We know this is the case, after attending a school governors meeting at Copmanthorpe Primary School last week.

This is especially relevant to families in the rental sector or local authority/housing association accommodation whose budgets would have no flexibility to absorb transport costs. For example, the current (and future) families living in the extensive new housing developments in the Copmanthorpe area, built under the Department for Communities Section 106 affordable housing requirements, are highly likely not to be able to afford transport costs to school.

vi. Removal of the current transport funding will most definitely significantly increase the use of private vehicles to get to TGS and, indeed, York schools. This goes counter to the City of York Council *Climate Change Strategy: at the heart of our recovery*. In addition, congestion on local roads will increase with the associated enhanced risk of accidents, especially those involving pedestrians.

vii. Most importantly, Tadcaster Grammar School has a long record of providing the highest quality education and care for the most vulnerable students in and beyond the area which will be affected by any change in transport arrangements. As access to services such as CAMHS, children's social care, SEND services and even access to food banks, and many more community resources, has been severely reduced due to the long shadow of the pandemic, plus more overt and recent financial and service cuts, the school has always provided security and stability to the most vulnerable families. Please reflect on whether York schools currently offer such high quality provision, or are planning to do so.

Outcomes for the children in these families at TGS have been excellent, in terms of:

- Attendance at school;
- Children's physical and mental health & wellbeing;
- Academic progress measures;
- Public examination results;
- Destinations at age 16 & 18.

viii. Finally, a net reduction of students on the TGS roll, even a small number, caused by the removal of discretionary transport would mean the provision offered by the school would have to be reduced significantly, severely impacting the school's ability to deliver the optimum education and care to *all* students. I am sure you will already be well aware of the frailty of school budgets and their unsustainability.

In conclusion, our position remains that we do not support the removal of the discretionary transport arrangement.

As discussed at length, please be advised that neither the school or the Trust has the sustainable financial resources to offer any contribution to this transport issue, either now or in the future.

I will forward you the student population data requested soonest.

Yours sincerely,

**Andrew Parkinson**  
**Headteacher**

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**Subject:** Tadcaster Grammar School bus consultation

Dear Cllr Webb,

I am writing on behalf of many constituents who have contacted me and in support of the correspondence you have already received from the Conservative Group in relation to the withdrawal of discretionary free transport to Tadcaster Grammar School.

While arguments can be made about whether the cost savings will ever be realised due to the demand placed on transport to other already oversubscribed York secondary schools (as many parents will have to move their children to a different school), I want to focus primarily on school choice.

No one knows their children better than a parent and for every child there is a school whose ethos best fits that child. For many years, parents have thought their child would be best served by Tadcaster Grammar School with some specifically moving to Copmanthorpe, Bishopthorpe, Askham Bryan, Askham Richard or the surrounding areas solely for the school choice.

I do not see the reasoning behind telling these families that they cannot send their child to a school outside the York catchment area and implying it is better for their children to go to Millthorpe School or an alternative secondary school elsewhere just because it is within the City of York Council area.

Furthermore, I believe it is incredibly unfair to change the rules for families who already have children at the school and have siblings waiting to join the school. The Labour administration repeatedly speaks of family budgets being tight but wishes to put the extra burden of having to pay for a child's school transport onto families. As if families decide this is too much and opt to move schools, the principle behind the change of policy quickly unravels as the expenditure required to expand schools that are already pretty much at capacity will be far more than continuing this long established transport policy.

I hope you take a fresh look at this policy and its impact on families. Parents should not have to worry about costs when selecting schools that they live within the catchment area of. Their sole priority should be what is best for their children.

Yours sincerely,

Julian

[Julian Sturdy](#)

**Member of Parliament, York Outer**

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**Subject:** Response for consideration for the Consultation to withdraw free discretionary transport to Tadcaster Grammar School

Good afternoon

Please find below the response for consideration as part of your consultation to withdraw free discretionary transport to Tadcaster Grammar School for residents of Copmanthorpe Primary School.

We are writing on behalf of the Governors of Copmanthorpe Primary School with regards to the above matter and following the public consultation meeting on 28th November 2023 at Copmanthorpe Primary School.

We would like to express serious concerns about the proposed removal of free transport to Tadcaster Grammar School for pupils within the Copmanthorpe catchment, for the reasons outlined below.

### **Impact on roll**

1. The proposal is highly likely to impact significantly on the school's roll with immediate effect. TGS is a well-regarded secondary school option for families in and around Copmanthorpe with approximately 75% of pupils progressing to TGS annually, as a school of choice. Removing TGS as a viable option for secondary transition is highly likely to have a detrimental impact on Copmanthorpe as a desirable location for families looking to relocate. Moreover, the school roll has been decreasing year on year since 2019. The financial implication of further decreases would be significant, and impact the school's ability to meet the needs of all children.

### **Equity of provision**

2. The proposal is predicated on the assumption that parents will continue to have choice, based on their ability to fund transport to the school. This assumption raises serious questions about equity of provision, in allowing access to choice for those who can afford it, and denying access to those who cannot. This sits in direct opposition to our school vision and values, and to core commitments in the CYC Council Plan 2023-2027.

### **Wider impacts**

3. Existing families with a child, or children, already at TGS may be forced to choose a different school for siblings in future years, for financial or other reasons. This creates additional financial and logistical challenges for families, and is likely to impact negatively on pupil experience.

**Uncertainty**

4. Alternative travel arrangements have not been confirmed including, for example, availability and cost. Currently there is no guarantee that any transport arrangements will be in place. Parents may rightly be concerned that any demand-led, private transport service will be responsive to demand and subject to future price fluctuations. This creates huge uncertainty for parents in making informed decisions about secondary school choices.

**Economic modelling and risk / benefits**

5. We are not aware of any economic modelling or risk / benefit analysis that has taken place in relation to worst and best case scenarios. We are not aware of any costed and timelined plans to increase the PAN or measured capacity at any York secondary school. There is no certainty that York schools will have the capacity to accommodate children from Copmanthorpe Primary School in future years. These factors create considerable uncertainty for the school in planning for the transition of future cohorts.

**Limitation of modelling**

6. At the public consultation meeting on 28th November 2023 at the school, CYC representatives suggested that assumptions about predicted parent behaviours have been based on a past decision to remove discretionary transport for children attending faith schools. It is our view that decision making for faith and non-faith schools is not comparable, as the factors that parents take into account are entirely different.

**Equality impact statement**

7. We are concerned that a comprehensive equality impact assessment has not taken place, covering a full range of needs, those of SEND children. This is particularly relevant as our school currently meets the needs of a higher-than-national-average proportion of SEND children.

**Communication**

8. Until the consultation went public on 7th November 2023, the school had had no prior notification of this matter. We would appreciate timely and open dialogue on decisions which stand to have a significant impact on the school's future.

**Consultation Survey**

9. Parent feedback informs us that the design of the survey tool, which has been used to garner views, is limited in terms of the reliability and validity of the results that it is likely to yield.

We recognise the financial challenges that the Council is facing and thank CYC representatives for engaging in a public consultation at the school. We would ask that relevant stakeholders are fully involved in future discussions on this matter. We would ask that the Council shares, in a timely way and prior to decision-making: the full implications of the proposal, including modelling and cost-benefit analysis; the timeline and plans for alternative provision within the York catchment which will be offered; and robust impact assessments which take into account a wider range of needs.

Kind regards

Jenny Rogers, Headteacher and Yvonne Hoggarth, Chair of Governors

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### **Consultation on proposed changes to Home to School Transport – Tadcaster Grammar School Bus**

Thank you for consulting North Yorkshire Council on proposed changes to eligibility for Home to School Transport provided by City of York Council for children living in the City of York area attending Tadcaster Grammar School.

We understand that the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education at the City of York Council gave approval on 7 November 2023 to begin 'a consultation process for phased removal of free discretionary transport to Tadcaster Grammar School to achieve previously agreed savings.' The report of 7 November recommending this approval states:

The current school admission policy sets out that for secondary school education most addresses in York are in the catchment area of one secondary school. The only exceptions to this are:

- i. The village of Bishopthorpe and Acaster Malbis, which are in the catchment area of Fulford School, Millthorpe School and Tadcaster Grammar School, and;
- ii. The village of Copmanthorpe, which is in the catchment area of Millthorpe School and Tadcaster Grammar School, and;
- iii. The villages of Askham Bryan and Askham Richard, which are in the catchment area of York High School and Tadcaster Grammar School.

The same report also notes:

The removal of discretionary free transport to Tadcaster Grammar School would be consistent with previous decisions that removed discretionary free transport to faith schools in the city. This would ensure that there is consistent application of the decisions not to maintain discretionary free transport.

The Department for Education's latest guidance on home to school transport notes:

Local authorities have a discretionary power to provide travel to school for children resident in their area who are not eligible children, referred to in this part as 'discretionary travel.'

The City of York Council's Home to School Transport policy 2023/4 under 'Statutory walking distance and eligibility for transport' states:

Eligible children are those who are of compulsory school age and are:  
Attending their nearest appropriate or suitable catchment area school  
and



There is a safe walking route within the statutory walking distance

- For primary aged children this must be 2 or more miles from their home
- For secondary aged children this must be 3 or more miles from their home

Or They cannot reasonably be expected to walk because of the unsafe nature of the route

Given the wording in the Council's Home to School Transport policy 2023/4 and the Department for Education's definition of 'discretionary travel' we would suggest that this is not a consultation about 'the removal of free discretionary transport' but a consultation on a change to the definition of eligibility in the Council's Home to School transport policy.

It is important to note that since May 2018, when Tadcaster Grammar School converted to an academy, the responsibility for consulting on, determining and publishing the school's admission arrangements, including the catchment area, has rested with the STAR Multi Academy Trust, as the Admissions Authority, rather than North Yorkshire Council.

We understand that if the decision was made to change the current eligibility arrangements, this would be phased in over a five-year period beginning September 2025 so that children and young people who started attending Tadcaster Grammar School under the previous arrangement can complete their secondary education to the end of Year 11. We welcome this commitment to provide certainty to parents of current pupils at Tadcaster Grammar School and those joining the school in September 2024.

We would ask that if any changes are made to eligibility for transport provision to Tadcaster Grammar School, that the Council's future Local Authority Composite prospectus (Guide for Parents applying for a school place) continues to include information about those addresses within the City of York area that are within the Tadcaster Grammar School catchment area together with information on transport eligibility so that parents have all the necessary information available when making choices about school provision.



### Modelling of Indicative Transport Savings Scenarios

	Academic Years				
	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000	2028/29 £000	2029/30 £000
Estimated Cost of Doing Nothing	204	219	225	239	239
<b><u>Minimum Saving</u></b>					
TGS Legacy Costs	172	150	109	70	-
York Schools – New Costs	15	29	44	59	73
Total Costs	187	179	153	129	73
<b>Estimated Saving</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>165</b>
<b><u>Mid Level Saving</u></b>					
TGS Legacy Costs	172	150	109	70	-
York Schools – New Costs	11	22	32	43	54
Total Costs	183	172	142	113	54
<b>Estimated Saving</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>185</b>
<b><u>Higher Level Saving</u></b>					
TGS Legacy Costs	172	150	109	70	-
York Schools – New Costs	5	11	16	22	27
Total Costs	178	161	125	92	27
<b>Estimated Saving</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>212</b>
<b><u>Maximum Saving</u></b>					
TGS Legacy Costs	172	150	109	70	-
York Schools – New Costs	-	-	-	-	-
Total Costs	172	150	109	70	-
<b>Estimated Saving</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>239</b>

**Minimum Saving:** Assumes all parents choose a York school from the September 2025 admissions onwards, and that the school is one that entitles local authority funded transport.

**Mid Level Saving:** Based on the public consultation results (Question 5) - assumes 73% of parents choose a York school from the September 2025 admissions onwards, and that the school is one that entitles local authority funded transport.

**Higher Level Saving:** Based on the public consultation results (Question 5) - assumes 37% of parents choose a York school from the September 2025 admissions onwards, and that the school is one that entitles local authority funded transport.

**Maximum Saving:** Assumes parents continue to choose TGS at current levels/proportions and no extra pupils require transport to a York school.

All scenarios are costed at current prices but do assume an additional 10% (above inflation) per year increase in the legacy TGS transport costs per pupil during the transition period.

All scenarios assume an increase in pupils within the TGS catchment in line with that being experienced for the 2024/25 admissions round, and sufficient capacity being available on current public service bus routes within York.