

# Impact Assessment

Assessment of: Proposal to close Chittlehampton C of E Primary School

Service: Planning, Transportation and Environment

Head of Service: Meg Booth

Version / date of sign off by Head of Service: 24 May 2022

Assessment carried out by (job title): Shona Meek, Senior School Organisation Officer

## 1. Description of project / service / activity / policy under review

The Governing Body of the Devon Moors Federation brought forward a statutory proposal to close Chittlehampton C of E Primary (Voluntary Aided) School from 31 August 2022.

Details of the consultation are available here: [Consultation on the future of Chittlehampton C of E Primary School - Have Your Say \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/consultation-on-the-future-of-chittlehampton-c-of-e-primary-school)

## 2. Reason for change / review

Chittlehampton C of E Primary School is a small rural primary school for children aged 3-11 and currently operates as a two class school. The school has a published admission number of 8 with a capacity for 56 pupils. The school has been under-subscribed for a number of years and pupil numbers fall significantly short of the school's published admission number. The school currently has only 15 pupils on roll. Five of the fifteen pupils are in Year 6 and will be leaving the school in July. Only one first preference was received for admission to the school in September 2022, therefore the roll is expected to drop to only 11.

The school is recognised by Ofsted as being a Good school and the Federation is strong with the federated schools working in close partnership to provide the best possible education for all children. However, delivery of a full and balanced curriculum at Chittlehampton C of E Primary School is difficult with such a small and decreasing number of children. Schools are mainly funded by an amount of money for each child attending the school. Maintaining high quality provision with quality teaching and learning is not sustainable on a low budget and a single class organisation.

In Autumn 2021, of the 45 children (Reception to Yr 6) living in the designated area of Chittlehampton C of E Primary School and attending a Devon School, 15 children attended Chittlehampton Primary School.

A review of area health authority data which provides the number of 0-4 year olds living in the school's catchment area shows very low numbers of pre-school aged children. There is a small increase in the number of pre-school aged children living in the catchment area who would be due to start school in 2025, however, parental preference for admission to the school has been low in recent years. In the District Council's Local Housing Plan, there is an allocated site for development at Chittlehampton but this is only for 20 dwellings. A development of 20 family dwellings would be expected to generate approximately 5 primary aged pupils.

## 3. Aims / objectives, limitations and options going forwards (summary)

The Federation has considered the closure of the school previously and has been monitoring the viability of the school over the last three years but the school is no longer sustainable.

The Federation made a submission for funding to Devon's Financial Intervention Panel, Schools (FIPS) due to a continued falling roll, low admissions to the school and the level of funding the Federation has diverted to support the school's sustainability. The Panel considered the

request in detail, in particular the future demographics within the catchment area and the likely admissions into the school. The school was not deemed to be sustainable due to the low numbers, low parental preference and no certainty that numbers would increase in the medium term to a sustainable level.

It has been suggested that children could be transported from schools under pressure to those smaller schools where numbers are low or falling. This would significantly increase the cost of home to school transport and conflict with DCC’s principle of local schools for local pupils with children being educated in their community with their peers.

Alternative options were fully considered before bringing this proposal forward. The Diocesan Board of Education and the School considered alternatives to closure and discussions were held with a representative of the Regional Schools Commissioner and some local Multi Academy Trusts. However, it was felt that the school was unsustainable with such a low number on roll which was not forecast to improve.

#### 4. People affected, diversity profile and analysis of needs

The school provides education for boys and girls aged 3-11. There is currently one child in the Nursery Class and 15 children in Reception to Year 6. Please see table below.

School	Published Admission Number (PAN)	Net Capacity	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total Number on roll
Chittlehampton C of E Primary	8	56	3	2	1	0	3	1	5	15

The five Year 6 pupils will be leaving the school in August to attend secondary school and one first preference was received for admission into Reception Class in September 2022. It is therefore anticipated that there will be 11 children on roll at the school in September, should the school remain open. 11 children and their families/carers will be directly affected by this proposal. Alternative school places will need to be allocated in local schools.

Local schools will therefore also be affected by this proposal but this may be considered a beneficial impact as other small rural schools nearby will see increased pupil numbers and a more sustainable network of schools in the local area. Staff (teaching and non teaching) will

also be directly affected by the proposal. Closure of the school will result in loss, or changes of employment for staff at Chittlehampton C of E Primary School. A TUPE process is currently underway and trade union representatives are involved. It is hoped that some of the teaching staff will transfer their employment to another school within the Devon Moors Federation, Filleigh Primary School.

There are no children on roll with an EHCP (Education, Health and Care Plan). If the school remains open, it is not anticipated that there will be any children on roll with special educational needs in September 2022.

## 5. Stakeholders, their interest and potential impacts

Children, parents/carers, staff (teaching and non-teaching) and governors are directly affected by this proposal. Pupils in Reception to Year 5 would need to move to alternative primary schools in the surrounding area. Year 6 pupils would be leaving primary school to take up places in secondary schools and so would not be affected by the closure in terms of their school place.

### **Potential Impact:**

The main changes for pupils in Reception to Year 5 would be:

- A new school
- A new route to school
- A new uniform
- New teachers and support staff
- A new learning environment
- Changed friendship groups

### **Mitigating Factors:**

Every pupil would be guaranteed the offer of a place at an alternative primary school in their local area. The school will fully support pupils in their transition to their new schools.

There is sufficient capacity in local schools to accommodate the children from Chittlehampton C of E Primary School. The nearest school to Chittlehampton C of E Primary School is Uمبرleigh Primary School (1.8 miles, as the crow flies). The next nearest school is Filleigh Primary School (2.4 miles, as the crow flies). Filleigh Primary School is in the same Federation as Chittlehampton C of E Primary School and is

proposing to move to a four class school and can accommodate all of the children from Chittlehampton C of E Primary School. Filleigh Primary and Umberleigh Primary are Ofsted rated ‘Good’ schools. Both Filleigh and Umberleigh Primary Schools offer Nursery provision.

Chittlehampton Primary School is a Church of England School. The nearest Church of England Schools to Chittlehampton village are: High Bickington Church of England Primary School, South Molton Church of England United Primary School and Swimbridge Church of England Primary School.

The distances to nearby schools are as follows:

<b>School</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Distance (miles as the crow flies) from Chittlehampton C of E Primary</b>
Umberleigh Academy Primary	Academy	1.8
Filleigh Primary	Foundation	2.4
Swimbridge C of E Primary	VA	3
High Bickington C of E	Academy	3.8
South Molton C of E United	VA	4.6
South Molton Primary	Community	4.6
Kings Nympton Primary	Foundation	4.8

Parents and carers of children at the school would be able to express a preference for a place at an alternative school. Parents and carers would be asked to complete an admissions application form and to name up to three schools they would prefer their child/ren to attend. Parents and carers would be offered a school place either at one of their preferred schools named on the application form or, if this is not possible, at the nearest school to the child’s home where a place is available. The local authority would try to meet parents and carers preferences wherever possible but cannot guarantee to do so.

Some families may be impacted by additional travel costs and travel time. Closure of Chittlehampton Primary School would result in additional travel to school for pupils for whom Chittlehampton is currently their closest school. Whilst free home to school transport would be provided to eligible pupils in accordance with the Council’s Home to School Transport Policy, it is also acknowledged that there could be an impact on some pupils’ ability to access before and after school activities, and this could impact on the ability of parents to take part in school events,

meetings etc. This would also mean that pupils who are currently able to walk to school would be unable to do so.

Chittlehampton C of E Primary School has a Nursery Class admitting children from age 3. Both Filleigh and Umberleigh Primary Schools offer Nursery provision. Umberleigh Primary School offers early years provision from age 2. Chittlehampton also offers a Breakfast Club which will cease to operate if the proposal is approved. Filleigh Primary School runs a breakfast club for five mornings per week from 7:50am to 8:50am.

The wider community of Chittlehampton village is also affected, although the school is not used by the community for any activities. Chittlehampton has a Village Hall which is let for community activities, meetings, fetes, parties and dances. The closure of the school could have the effect of making the village less attractive to families with school age children. In the wider community, there will be some impact of any closure on the village public house, The Bell, as school meals are provided by the public house. At the time of writing, the local village shop and post office, Chittlechatter Stores, is up for sale. The school acts as an employer and consumer in the local area. Parents may be more likely to spend locally if their child is at a local school.

The economic benefits that a school brings to a community must be considered beneficial side effects to the main duty of a school which is to provide a quality education to its pupils. Numbers on roll, budget deficits and academic standards must be the major considerations in any decision on the future of a school and, while a community may be impacted by a decision to close a school; this cannot be an overriding factor.

Although the proposal will lead to the loss of the school, the Governing Body, the Local Authority and the Diocesan Board of Education believe that the proposal is in the best educational interests of the children in the future and it is not considered that the school can continue to deliver a good standard of education with such a low number on roll.

## 6. Additional research used to inform this assessment

The relevant Department for Education (DfE) statutory guidance and legislation has been fully considered in bringing this proposal forward.

Proposers and decision makers must have regard to it when carrying out duties relating to discontinuance (closing) of an existing maintained school.

- DfE Statutory Guidance Opening and Closing Maintained Schools, November 2019

- Education and Inspections Act (EIA) 2006 as amended by the Education Act (EA) 2011
- The School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) Regulations 2013.

Chittlehampton C of E Primary School is designated as a rural primary school. Under Section 15 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, there is a presumption against the closure of rural schools. This does not mean that a rural school will never close, but the case for closure should be strong and a proposal must clearly be in the best interests of educational provision in the area. The matters to consider in closing a rural school have been fully considered by the Governing Body and by the Local Authority. Alternative options to closure have been considered, the likely effect on the local community, as well as the availability and likely cost to the Local Authority of transport to other schools.

In preparing the Statutory Proposal, full consideration has been given to these factors including the capacity of local schools and the balance of denominational education. Consideration has been given to the travel distances to alternative schools as well as the standards and Ofsted rating for local schools.

Whilst the immediate effects of closure can be stressful, the long-term effects can be beneficial to pupils in terms of educational and social development. Schools have unfortunately closed periodically across the county. However, we have seen good practice with children being fully supported by their existing schools and through transition to their new schools. The underlying benefit to the children will be to provide an educational offer that is educationally and financially sustainable.

## 7. Description of consultation process and outcomes

It is a statutory requirement to consult any parties the proposer thinks is appropriate before publishing proposals to close a maintained school.

The informal consultation period was held between 14 February to 4 April 2022. The consultation document is available at: [Consultation on the future of Chittlehampton C of E Primary School - Have Your Say \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/consultation-on-the-future-of-chittlehampton-c-of-e-primary-school).

The consultation was widely circulated and promoted. The consultation was published on the school's website and DCC's Have Your Say consultation webpage. Details of the consultation were circulated to all parents, staff and governors of Chittlehampton C of E Primary School as well as the District Council, Parish Council, School Trustees, Church Wardens, Union representatives, all schools, early years providers, all County Councillors, and the DfE School Organisation Unit in accord with statutory guidance from the Department for Education.

The Governing Body received 15 responses from 13 respondents to the consultation, mainly from parents and local residents. No response has been received from the Parish Council.

A summary of these responses will be shared at DCC's Cabinet meeting on 8 June 2022 (but will be made anonymous for data protection reasons). Consultation responses in full will be available for Members to view on request. In brief summary, the main points and recurring opinions were:

There is great sadness over the closure of the school and the loss to the community. There is concern and sadness for the children who are faced with the loss of their school, following two years of disruption and upheaval due to the Covid pandemic.

Some respondents felt that more could have been done to promote the school, including better provision for after school care for working families and less restricted pre-school hours which could have attracted more young families.

Some respondents felt that the new housing being proposed would result in more children attending the school and that houses up for sale in the village could attract families. However, the closing of the school would be a deterrent to families moving to the village in the future.

A few parents responded that the whole school admission system of giving parents three preferences for a school place should be reviewed and that parents should attend their catchment school.

Parents wanted to know what would be the designated school for Chittlehampton village and therefore the school transport entitlement. Parents also raised queries regarding free school transport being provided to access breakfast clubs.

A couple of respondents raised concerns that the South Molton town schools have been expanded when children could have been transported to Chittlehampton Primary School from the town.

Some parents felt sadness for the proposed closure but recognised that such low numbers going forward would have a negative impact on children's education. They were also sad that families in Chittlehampton were not choosing to send their children to the school.

One resident felt more could have been done by the Federation to save the school and questioned whether all alternatives to closure were

explored.

In response, we are continuing to see preference for other schools from the Chittlehampton catchment area. This may be because the catchment area is large and families are nearer to other schools. Local authorities must provide a common application form (CAF) that enables parents to express their preference for a place at any state funded school, with a minimum of 3 preferences in rank order.

Devon County Council's (DCC) approach is 'local schools for local children' for community and environmental reasons. There is sometimes pressure in urban areas in contrast with some rural areas seeing a drop-off in pupil numbers and this can sometimes occur in the same locality. It has been suggested that children could be transported from schools under pressure to those smaller schools where numbers are low or falling. This would significantly increase the cost of home to school transport and conflict with the principle of local schools for local pupils and would be unacceptable to a large number of parents.

DCC's Early Years team support schools in setting up early years provision as well as before and after school care but there needs to be a sustainable financial plan and enough demand for the provision to be a viable option, otherwise any shortfall has to be met by the Governing Body. Viability is difficult if there are insufficient pupil numbers due to demographics and there is not sufficient demand.

In the case of South Molton, additional accommodation was to meet the need from the development arising in the town and ensured local provision for families in the town. In the District Council's Local Housing Plan, there is an allocated site for development at Chittlehampton but this is only for 20 dwellings. A development of 20 family dwellings would be expected to generate approximately 5 primary aged pupils. An occupancy level of 0.25 primary aged children per family (2+bed) dwelling is based on empirical research by Devon County Council.

The Diocesan Board of Education and the School considered alternatives to closure and discussions were held with a representative of the Regional Schools Commissioner and some local Multi Academy Trusts. However, it was felt that the school was unsustainable with such a low number on roll which was not forecast to improve.

In respect of school transport, all children are entitled to free home to school transport if they attend the nearest school to their home address and they:

- are of statutory school age
- live more than two miles away by the shortest walking route (for primary)

- live under two miles away but all walking routes are considered unavailable

Children in Devon are also be entitled to free school transport to the school designated to serve their home address - provided it is still further than the statutory walking distance (see above).

A consultation has taken place with the Local Learning Community on the proposed new designated area for the area currently served by Chittlehampton Primary School, should the school close. The outcome of this consultation and the LA recommendation will be made available in the Cabinet Report.

A public consultation information session was held at the school on 3 March 2022. Five parents attended the consultation session.

A full report of the consultation event and response is available at: [Consultation on the future of Chittlehampton C of E Primary School - Have Your Say \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/your-say/consultation-on-the-future-of-chittlehampton-c-of-e-primary-school).

The children have also been talking about the possible closure with the Head of School. The children have been discussing their worries and thoughts and some of these are shared in the report of the consultation event above. Their feelings range from some positive thoughts, for example “I can make lots of new friends” and “Already have friends at Filleigh” to understandably some anxious and sad thoughts, for example: “Will we be with our friends again?”, “So many memories will be left behind – we love this school” and “I’m worried I won’t make new friends”.

Following the closing date of the informal consultation, the Governing Body of the Devon Moors Federation met on 6 April 2022 and considered the responses to the consultation. The Governing Body voted to move to a formal proposal to close the school from 31 August 2022.

A formal representation period commenced on 25 April 2022 lasting four weeks, as per statutory guidance, ending on 23 May 2022. A Brief Notice was published in a local newspaper, the Western Morning News on the 25 April 2022, outlining the proposal and providing details for commenting on or objecting to the proposal with information on how to access the Full Statutory Proposal. The Brief Notice was displayed at the main entrance to the school as per regulations. The Full Statutory Proposal was published on DCC’s Have Your Say consultation website and on the school’s website. The Full Proposal was circulated to all staff, parents, governors and school trustees. It was also circulated to all stakeholders previously consulted with. A copy of the Brief Notice and Full Proposal were sent to the DfE School Organisation Unit. Both are available to view via: [Proposed closure of Chittlehampton C of E Primary School: formal representation period - Have Your Say \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/your-say/proposed-closure-of-chittlehampton-c-of-e-primary-school-formal-representation-period)

One objection has been received from a parent. The parent strongly believes that a Nursery Class within a primary school setting is important for preparing pre-school aged children for school. The parent is against the closure of the Nursery Class within Chittlehampton Primary School and states that the Council has already denied such a preschool within South Molton town as DCC have said there is sufficient capacity. The respondent disputes this and is against the closure of a Nursery Class so close to South Molton which makes sending a child to a Nursery Class within a school even more difficult. The respondent does not agree that the closure of the school is in the children's best educational interest as the school provides a high standard of education regardless of the wide age range being educated together. The parent feels that the school should be given more time to raise its profile locally to attract children, especially given the children predicted to start in 2025.

In response to this representation, the school has not attracted pupils from within its large catchment area which is one of the primary reasons the Governors have consulted on closure and therefore the potential for increased admission in September 2025 does not reflect the historical pattern within the school's catchment area. There is currently only one child attending the nursery class and there is not an early years sufficiency issue within South Molton town with the potential to deliver school-based early years provision as and when the need arises within the town. The Devon Moors Federation have been debating the future of the school for a number of years and have moved to this decision due to the very low numbers on roll for September 2022 and beyond.

## 8. Equality analysis

### Giving Due Regard to Equality and Human Rights

The local authority must consider how people will be affected by the service, policy or practice. In so doing we must give due regard to the need to: eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

Where relevant, we must take into account the protected characteristics of age, disability, gender, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, sexual orientation, race, and religion and belief. This means considering how people with different needs get the different services they require and are not disadvantaged, and facilities are available to them on an equal basis in order to meet their needs; advancing equality of opportunity by recognising the disadvantages to which protected groups are subject and considering how they can be overcome.

We also need to ensure that human rights are protected. In particular, that people have:

- A reasonable level of choice in where and how they live their life and interact with others (this is an aspect of the human right to 'private and family life').
- An appropriate level of care which results in dignity and respect (the protection to a private and family life, protection from torture and the freedom of thought, belief and religion within the Human Rights Act and elimination of discrimination and the promotion of good relations under the Equality Act 2010).
- A right to life (ensuring that nothing we do results in unlawful or unnecessary/avoidable death).
- The Equality Act 2010 and other relevant legislation does not prevent the Council from taking difficult decisions which result in service reductions or closures for example, it does however require the Council to ensure that such decisions are:
  - Informed and properly considered with a rigorous, conscious approach and open mind, taking due regard of the effects on the protected characteristics and the general duty to eliminate discrimination, advance equality and foster good relations.
  - Proportionate (negative impacts are proportionate to the aims of the policy decision)
  - Fair
  - Necessary
  - Reasonable, and
  - Those affected have been adequately consulted.

All statutory requirements have been met and all stakeholders consulted in accordance with DfE statutory guidance and legislation. The consultation has been open and fair. The consultation periods have taken place in school term time, as per best practice guidance, to allow the maximum number of people to respond and have been held for a proportionate amount of time. The Governing Body and DCC have had regard to the Cabinet Office guidance on consultation principles.

DCC's Cabinet will make the final decision on the proposal. On 8 June 2022 the Cabinet will determine the statutory proposal to close the school, taking into account the factors set out in the Cabinet report.

Should the school close on 31 August 2022, all families will be able to express a preference for three schools. Where schools are oversubscribed, admission authorities will rank applications in accordance with their determined arrangements. Oversubscription criteria must be reasonable, clear, objective, procedurally fair and comply with all relevant legislation, including equalities legislation. As per the School Admissions Code of Practice, admission authorities must ensure that arrangements will not disadvantage unfairly, either directly or indirectly, a child from a particular social or racial group, or a child with a disability or special educational needs. Each Local Authority must have a Fair Access Protocol to ensure that unplaced and vulnerable children, and those who are having difficulty in securing a school place in-year, are allocated a school place as quickly as possible.

<p>Characteristics</p>	<p>Potential or actual issues for this group.</p> <p>[Please refer to the <a href="#">Diversity Guide</a> and <a href="#">See RED</a>]</p>	<p>How will the project / service / policy / activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• eliminate or reduce the potential for direct or indirect discrimination, harassment or disadvantage, where necessary.</li> <li>• advance equality (meet needs / ensure access, encourage participation, make adjustments for disabled people, 'close gaps').</li> <li>• foster good relations between groups (tackled prejudice and promoted understanding), if relevant?</li> </ul> <p>In what way do you consider any negative consequences to be reasonable and proportionate in order to achieve a legitimate aim?</p> <p>Are you complying with the <a href="#">DCC Equality Policy</a>?</p>
<p>All residents (include generic equality provisions)</p>	<p>Impact to pupils, parents, staff and governors and local community.</p>	<p>We have ensured through our statutory processes that the views of parents, pupils, communities and stakeholders have been considered and dealt with in order that informed decisions can be made without delay and are reported to Cabinet. The closure is proposed for 31 August 2022 to enable children to start at their new schools at the beginning of the new academic year. Parents and staff feel this is beneficial to children. Children will be allocated a local school place fairly in accordance with the School Admissions Code.</p>
<p>Age</p>	<p>3-11.</p>	<p>N/A. Protected characteristic of age applies to everyone over the age of 18.</p>
<p>Disability (incl. sensory, mobility, mental health, learning disability, neurodiversity, long term ill health) and carers of disabled people</p>	<p>There is not anticipated to be any children on roll in September 2022 who have an Education, Health and Care Plan or Special Educational Needs.</p>	
<p>Culture and ethnicity: nationality/national origin, ethnic origin/race, skin colour, religion and belief</p>	<p>Information was used from the School Census to ensure the consultation document was accessible to all.</p>	

Characteristics	Potential or actual issues for this group.  [Please refer to the <a href="#">Diversity Guide</a> and <a href="#">See RED</a> ]	How will the project / service / policy / activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>eliminate or reduce the potential for direct or indirect discrimination, harassment or disadvantage, where necessary.</li> <li>advance equality (meet needs / ensure access, encourage participation, make adjustments for disabled people, 'close gaps').</li> <li>foster good relations between groups (tackled prejudice and promoted understanding), if relevant?</li> </ul> <p>In what way do you consider any negative consequences to be reasonable and proportionate in order to achieve a legitimate aim?</p> <p>Are you complying with the <a href="#">DCC Equality Policy</a>?</p>
Sex, gender and gender identity (including men, women, non-binary and transgender people), and pregnancy and maternity (including women's right to breastfeed)	N/A	Chittlehampton C of E Primary School caters for boys and girls. All children and their families will be treated equitably should the school close. Children will be allocated a local school place fairly in accordance with the School Admissions Code of Practice.
Sexual orientation and marriage/civil partnership	N/A	

<p>Other relevant socio-economic factors such as family size/single people/lone parents, income/deprivation, housing, education and skills, literacy, sub-cultures, 'digital exclusion', access to transport options, rural/urban</p>	<p>The Education Infrastructure Plan supports sustainable, high quality provision that maximises accessibility, meets local needs and recognises the needs generated by planned development in specific localities, tackles inequalities for vulnerable pupils but also recognises the needs of a changing population, employment and growth opportunities . It supports local schools for local children thus minimising the reliance on school transport and environmental impact. There will be increased vehicular usage as a result of this proposal as some children walk to Chittlehampton C of E Primary School.</p>	
---	--	--



## 9. Human rights considerations:

Devon County Council has a statutory duty to provide sufficient education places for early years, primary and secondary education. As outlined above, there are sufficient local school places to accommodate displaced pupils. The local authority would try to meet parents and carers preferences wherever possible but cannot guarantee to do so. The Local Authority considers that all pupils impacted by the proposal, should it proceed, would be enabled to receive a good quality of education.

## 10. Supporting independence, wellbeing and resilience. Give consideration to the groups listed above and how they may have different needs:

In what way can you support and create opportunities for people and communities (of place and interest) to be independent, empowered and resourceful?

N/A

In what way can you help people to be safe, protected from harm, and with good health and wellbeing?

Pupils will be fully supported in their transition to any new school.

In what way can you help people to be connected, and involved in community activities?

N/A

## 11. Environmental analysis

An impact assessment should give due regard to the following activities in order to ensure we meet a range of environmental legal duties. The policy or practice does not require the identification of environmental impacts using this Impact Assessment process because it is subject to (please mark X in the relevant box below and proceed to the 4c, otherwise complete the environmental analysis table):

Devon County Council's Environmental Review Process	
Planning Permission	
Environmental Impact Assessment	
Strategic Environmental Assessment	

	Describe any actual or potential negative consequences. (Consider how to mitigate against these).	Describe any actual or potential neutral or positive outcomes. (Consider how to improve as far as possible).
Reduce, reuse, recycle and compost:	N/A	
Conserve and enhance wildlife:	N/A	
Safeguard the distinctive characteristics, features and special qualities of Devon's landscape:	N/A	
Conserve and enhance Devon's cultural and historic heritage:	The school was founded in 1865. It is a Grade II listed building.	In terms of the ownership of the land and school building, the Diocese have confirmed that the school building is vested in the Vicar and Churchwardens of the parish of Chittlehampton as Trustees. The school playing field is owned by the Parish Council. There has been no consideration of land ownership in bringing the proposal forward and no discussion regarding the future of the school site.
Minimise greenhouse gas emissions:	N/A	

<p>Minimise pollution (including air, land, water, light and noise):</p>	<p>Some children walk to school from Chittlehampton village. There is likely to be increased vehicular use if the school is closed.</p>	<p>Private car use will be mitigated to some effect by the use of home to school transport. Buses and coaches are cleaner than cars on a per passenger basis. All children are entitled to free home to school transport if they attend the nearest school to their home address and they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• are of statutory school age</li> <li>• live more than two miles away by the shortest walking route (for primary)</li> <li>• live under two miles away but all walking routes are considered unavailable</li> </ul> <p>Children in Devon are also entitled to free school transport to the school designated to serve their home address - provided it is still further than the statutory walking distance (see above).</p> <p>The Local Learning Community has been consulted on proposals for the new designated area for the area currently served by Chittlehampton Primary School. The outcome of this consultation and the LA recommendation will be reported to Cabinet 8 June 2022.</p>
<p>Contribute to reducing water consumption:</p>	<p>N/A</p>	
<p>Ensure resilience to the future effects of climate change (warmer, wetter winters; drier, hotter summers; more intense storms; and rising sea level):</p>	<p>See above regarding free school transport provision.</p>	<p>See above regarding free school transport provision.</p>

Other (please state below):	N/A	
-----------------------------	-----	--

## 12. Economic analysis

	Describe any actual or potential negative consequences. (Consider how to mitigate against these).	Describe any actual or potential neutral or positive outcomes. (Consider how to improve as far as possible).
Impact on knowledge and skills:	In some rural areas there is a decline in pupil numbers and over the past few years there have been school closures. There is a presumption against closure unless there are clear educational reasons and the financial position of the school means standards cannot be maintained. We will work with our partners to seek extensive alternatives including partnerships and academisation and consider transport implications, impact on the local community, future place planning, early years provision, standards, forecast of future pupil numbers, access to community services and financial viability.	There is a presumption against the closure of rural schools. This does not mean that a rural school will never close, but the case for closure should be strong and a proposal must clearly be in the best interests of educational provision in the area. This proposal has been fully considered. There are concerns that delivery of a full and balanced curriculum will be difficult with such a small and decreasing number of children. Moving to a single class school will be very difficult educationally for pupils with such a wide age group being taught in one class. Social and emotional development would also be very challenging.
Impact on employment levels:	The economic benefits that a school brings to a community must be considered beneficial side effects to the main duty of a school which is to provide a quality education to its pupils. Numbers on roll, budget deficits and academic standards must be the major considerations in any decision on the future of a school and, while a community may be impacted by a decision to close a school; this cannot be an overriding factor.	

Impact on local business:	<p>As discussed above, the local Public House provides school meals so there will be an impact on The Bell should the school close.</p> <p>The local village shop, Chittle Chatter, is up for sale. Depending on the outcome of the sale, this could potentially mean the loss of two community facilities.</p>	
---------------------------	---	--

### 13. Describe and linkages or conflicts between social, environmental and economic impacts (Combined Impacts):

There are concerns that delivery of a full and balanced curriculum will be very difficult with such a small and decreasing number of children. Moving to a single class school will be very difficult educationally for pupils with such a wide age group being taught in one class. Social and emotional development would also be very challenging. A decision not to close a school can also have a negative impact on pupils' progress and attainment. The closure as outlined above will have some adverse environmental and economic impacts due to increased vehicular usage and the loss of the economic benefits that a school brings to a community.

### 14. How will the economic, social and environmental well-being of the relevant area be improved through what is being proposed? And how, in conducting the process of procurement, might that improvement be secured?

The economic benefits that a school brings to a community must be considered beneficial side effects to the main duty of a school which is to provide a quality education to its pupils. Numbers on roll, budget deficits and academic standards must be the major considerations in any decision on the future of a school and, while a community may be impacted by a decision to close a school; this cannot be an overriding factor. The proposal will result in an impact on the environment through increased vehicular use and increased travel time to school. However, the

Governing Body and the Local Authority consider the case for closure is strong and in the best educational and social interests of the children.

## 15. How will impacts and actions be monitored?

If the proposal to close is approved by DCC's Cabinet, Devon County Council will manage the school admissions process. Parents and carers would be asked to complete an in-year admissions application form and to name up to three schools they would prefer their child/ren to attend. Devon County Council would try to meet parent and carers' preferences wherever possible but cannot guarantee to do so as it would depend upon vacancies at that time. Admission Officers from Devon County Council would be available to support families in completing in-year applications and ensure all children have a local school place.

Babcock LDP have produced good practice guidance for all schools and settings in Devon in managing transition to new schools. There will be good communication between settings and sufficient time to ensure a successful transition whereby pupils are supported during their final months at Chittlehampton and in their transition to a new school. Parents and carers will be closely involved in the process of transition.

In the event that a decision is taken to close the school, the Local Authority and the Devon Moors Federation will work closely together to implement closure and undertake the practical arrangements in closing a school.