

## Record of Delegated Executive Decision(s)

### 1. Name and Title of Decision Maker

Julie Firth, Director of Children's Services in consultation with Jon Ritchie, Director of Resources

### 2. Subject of decision

#### **Title: Strategic Education Review Update – Provision of Temporary Modular accommodation at Whitley Bay High School**

The purpose of this report is to recommend that the Director of Children's Services approve the provision of temporary modular accommodation on Whitley Bay High School under the Officer Delegation Scheme, where Council has delegated authority to the Director Children's Services (HECS226 in the Officer Delegation Scheme) to plan local school provision including decisions about the establishment, alteration and closure.

### 3. Details of any Conflict of Interest and any Dispensation granted in respect of such Interest

None

#### **4. Executive summary**

North Tyneside Council's Cabinet met on 19 December 2024 and resolved unanimously to approve the proposal, without modification, that Monkseaton High School shall close on 31 August 2026, as per the implementation timetable referred to in the full statutory proposal attached to the report.

The closure of Monkseaton High School is considered necessary on the basis that it is no longer viable. In addition, there are surplus places elsewhere in the local area, which can accommodate displaced pupils, and there is no predicted increase in demand for the school in the medium to long term.

The Authority has a statutory role to ensure there is sufficient school places for pupils who are residents of North Tyneside and this responsibility is a key consideration. There is sufficient capacity for all displaced Year 9 pupils across our North Tyneside secondary schools (maintained and academy settings). However, by working with Headteachers and Governing Boards the Authority has ensured that a greater element of choice is available during this extraordinary admissions process and school leaders and Governing Boards have formally agreed from September 2025 to admit children up to their existing Published Admission Numbers (PANs) and, in some cases, to make extra places available. Any extra places referred to represent a temporary increase for the particular year group and not a change to school PANs. They represent a number of places that each school may admit up to for the particular year group only and at that point in time. They are a temporary measure to allow for any "bulge years" resulting from the closure of Monkseaton High School.

A number of North Tyneside schools have agreed to provide an increased number of places without the need for extra accommodation. This is predominantly due to the fact that they are under-capacity in one or more year groups or because their building has the sufficient physical capacity necessary to take a small number of additional students.

Whitley Bay High School are currently operating at their Published Admission Number and have no flexibility within their current

accommodation to provide additional teaching space for the either the displaced pupils from Monkseaton High School as Y10 students or the new Y9 intake in September 2025.

It is anticipated that Witley Bay High School will admit an additional 20 students in to both years 9 and 10 in September 2025 (total of 40 pupils), and likely a further additional cohort into year 9 in September 2026. These will be known as 'Bulge' classes, and only exist during the transition period following the decision to close Monkseaton High School.

In order to allow delivery of the curriculum, the school would require additional temporary accommodation. It is likely that this accommodation will be on site for up to three years from September 2025. It is intended to procure the accommodation via a hire agreement from a modular accommodation provider.

## **5. Alternative Options considered**

None

## **6. Decision(s)**

The Director of Children's Services in consultation with the Director of Resources:

1. Approved the provision of the temporary modular accommodation as described in the report in paragraph 1.5.5.

**7. Reasons for the Decision(s)**

The decision will enable the Authority to discharge its statutory duty in terms of ensuring there are sufficient school places to meet demand and that all schools are well placed to deliver high quality education that meets the needs of their local community and makes best use of public funding.

**8. Date decision made**

2 April 2025

**9. Is this decision subject to call-in and if so expiry date of call-in period**

Yes, the call-in period expires at 5.00pm on 9 April 2025

**10. Date of Publication**

2 April 2025

**11. Implementation Date (if decision not called in)**

10 April 2025