



Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Scrutiny Board (Development)

Date: 10th October 2006

Subject: Request for Scrutiny Regarding the Former Drighlington Junior School

Electoral Wards Affected:

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 A request for Scrutiny has been made by the Clerk to Drighlington Parish Council following a deputation to Council on 19th July 2006. The request relates to the former Drighlington school. Details of the request are attached.
- 1.2 The Clerk to Drighlington Parish Council has been invited to attend today's meeting to detail to the Board the exact nature of the request for Scrutiny.

2.0 Executive Board

- 2.1 The Executive Board on 16th August 2006 considered the attached report of the Director of Development in response to the deputation to Council by the Drighlington **Conservation** Group regarding lack of consultation on the disposal of Drighlington Old School and land.
- 2.2 The Executive Board at this meeting noted:
- (a) the concerns expressed in the deputation from Drighlington Conservation Group
 - (b) the consultation which has taken place to date
 - (c) that the petition from Drighlington residents did receive due consideration from officers and the Executive Member for Development, but that on balance the view was taken that it was necessary to progress the disposal in order to deliver the Primary School Review programme

- (d) that representatives of Drighlington Parish Council will have a further formal opportunity to submit any objections on the development of the school upon submission of a planning application by the successful purchaser of the site
- (e) that discussions are underway to secure the rebuilding of the clock tower, the clock face and mechanism, and the weather vane in appropriate locations within the community
- (f) that the Council is the legal owner of the site and buildings and therefore does have the right to dispose of them
- (g) that Development Department will continue to progress the disposal of the school to meet the targets of the Primary School Review, and maintain an ongoing dialogue with Local Ward Members.

3.0 Options for Investigations and Inquiries

3.1 When considering the request for Scrutiny, the Scrutiny Board (Development) shall determine;

- how the proposed inquiry meets criteria approved from time to time by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- whether the Inquiry can be adequately resourced
- whether an Inquiry should be undertaken

4.0 Recommendations

4.1 The Scrutiny Board is requested to;

- (i) Consider the Clerk to Drighlington Parish Council's request for Scrutiny.
- (ii) Receive and consider the report from the Director of Development.
- (iii) Consider whether further Scrutiny is required on this matter.