



Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Scrutiny Board (Development)

Date: 21st November 2006

Subject: Former Blackgates School at Tingley – Further Scrutiny

Electoral Wards Affected: Morley North & Morley South

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Scrutiny Board on 10th October 2006 considered a request for Scrutiny from the Community Safety representative of Shancara Court which is next to the former Blackgates school site off Bradford Road.
- 1.2 The Scrutiny Board at this meeting unanimously resolved that the application for further Scrutiny of this matter be approved.
- 1.3 The Director of Development was asked to submit a further report to this Scrutiny Board meeting in response to Members concerns outlined in paragraph 2.3 of this report.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The request for scrutiny had been submitted following a deputation to Council on 19th July 2006 and the subsequent decision of the Executive Board, at its meeting on 16th August 2006, to agree to the original plans by the Development Department for the disposal of the former school.
- 2.2 Copies of the request for Scrutiny, the deputation and the report from the Director of Development to the Executive Board on 16th August 2006, which were considered at the last Scrutiny Board meeting are attached for Members reference.
- 2.3 In summary the main issues raised by Members at the last Scrutiny Board meeting were:
 - Access to the site from the A650 Bradford Road and the cul-de-sac at Shancara Court

- The ransom strip
- The one independent valuation of the asset
- The timetable of events
- The review of primary schools and when the decision was taken to close Blackgates School
- Access to the caretakers house
- Consultation with Ward Members
- Predicted vehicular movements
- Whether best consideration had been achieved
- Interpretation of an email by the applicant requesting further scrutiny, between highways and property services officers that an alternative proposal could be the conversion of the existing school building to 12 to 15 flats on the site, with the entrance through the former school gates.

3.0 Development Department

3.1 In accordance with the request for further information by the Scrutiny Board at the last meeting a report of the Director of Development is attached for the consideration of Members.

4.0 Recommendations

4.1 The Scrutiny Board is requested to:-

- (i) consider the attached report of the Director of Development and ask questions of the officers attending the meeting.
- (ii) determine on the evidence presented, whether further scrutiny is required and, if so, what form this should take.