



Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Scrutiny Board (City and Regional Partnerships)

Date: 21st July 2008

Subject: Request for Scrutiny Regarding University Fees

Electoral Wards Affected: All

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 Introduction

1.1 A request for scrutiny has been made by Leeds University Union concerning their fees campaign. The University Union wants the Scrutiny Board to investigate what impact the current funding model has had on applications to their local institutions from local students, but also what wider impacts the city could face if an increase of fees was introduced following the 2009 review. Details of the request are attached.

1.2 This matter was discussed at the last meeting of the Board when considering the development of its work programme for 2008/09. Members considered that this matter was not a priority within the Leeds Strategic Plan and there would clearly be a need to secure the active participation of the two Universities. However, despite these reservations the Board agreed to invite representatives from the University Unions to present their case to the Board today.

1.3 The following representaives from the Leeds University Union have been invited to attend today's meeting to detail to the Board the exact nature of their request for scrutiny:

Mr Danial Adilypour Education Officer, Leeds University Union
Mr Rob Damiao Community Officer, Leeds University Union

1.4 The Leeds University Union has submitted the attached information in support of their request as follows:

- Report from the Leeds University Union

- Details of Liverpool City Council's submission

2.0 Options for Investigations and Inquiries

2.1 When considering the request for Scrutiny, the Scrutiny Board (City Development) shall determine:

- what further information the Board needs before considering whether an inquiry should be undertaken
- how the proposed inquiry meets criteria approved from time to time by the Scrutiny Advisory Group
- whether the Inquiry can be adequately resourced
- whether an Inquiry should be undertaken

3.0 Recommendations

3.1 The Scrutiny Board is asked to consider;

- (i) The request for Scrutiny from the University Unions.
- (ii) What further information, if any, the Scrutiny Board requires before it can determine if it wishes to undertake an inquiry on this matter.