

CABINET	Paper No.
Meeting date: 9 October 2007	
From: Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Corporate Director – Children's Services	
	**

SCHOOL ORGANISATION : A STRATEGIC APPROACH – POTENTIAL CHANGES TO PRIMARY EDUCATION IN NORTH CARLISLE

SECTION A: RECOMMENDATION OF CABINET MEMBER

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report informs Members of the nature and outcome of the recent public consultation exercise concerning primary education provision in North Carlisle.**
- 1.2 It then goes on to provide information and analysis designed to help Members reach conclusions on a way forward for the future.**

2.0 POLICY POSITION, BUDGETARY AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS AND LINKS TO CORPORATE STRATEGY

Policy Position

- 2.1 Most of the potential variations to school provision which this report focuses on represent school organisation change.**
- 2.2 The policy position on school organisation matters is set out in the 7 September 2005 Cabinet paper 'School Organisation – A Strategic Approach'.**
- 2.3 The document 'Enhancing Lives Through Learning – A Vision for Schools in Cumbria', which was approved by Cabinet on 28 February 2006, underpins and guides the Authority's school organisation processes.**

Budgetary Implications

- 2.4** *There are no significant implications for the levels of revenue budgets. School organisation change can, however, free-up existing resources to be put to alternative use in or for other schools.*
- 2.5** *Capital expenditure would be required to achieve the potential change focussed on in this paper. Provision for this is made in the Authority's Capital Plan.*

Links to the Council Plan

- 2.6** *The basic thrust of the strategic approach to school organisation is to safeguard and improve the education and other services to children and their families provided through schools in the county.*
- 2.7** *This is supportive of the Plan's themes, 'Improving Council Services' and 'Improving the Life Chances and Well-Being of Children and Young People'.*

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

Cabinet is invited to consider:-

- 3.1** *Adopting, supporting and pursuing the implementation of the potential way forward summarised in paragraph 4.58*
- and more explicitly in terms of statutory processes.*
- 3.2** *Taking all necessary action to discontinue (i.e. close) Belah School, Carlisle with effect from the end of the summer term 2008 with its catchment area being split in line with the suggestion made in the consultation document (Appendix A) and incorporated into the catchment areas of Kingmoor Infant and Junior Schools and Stanwix School.*
- 3.3** *Taking all necessary action to extend the age-range of Kingmoor Infant School from 4-7 to 3-7 with effect from 1 September 2008.*

Jim Buchanan
Cabinet Member for Children's Wellbeing

SECTION B: **ADVICE OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR – CHILDREN’S SERVICES**

4.0 BACKGROUND

Approach to the Report

- 4.1 A range of detailed information is set out in the nine appendices to this report which deals with the review of primary school organisation in part of Carlisle.
- 4.2 The approach adopted in this covering report is to avoid too much repetition of the content of the appendices, rather to pick out, comment on and analyse what are felt to be the most important data and issues.

The General Context

- 4.3 As part of the strategic approach to school organisation which involves the review of all schools throughout Cumbria, the Carlisle Local Partnership Group and the School Organisation Forum recommended that consultation should occur on possible changes to primary school provision in North Carlisle. The Cabinet endorsed those recommendations and agreed options for change at its meetings on 30 January 2007 and 13 March 2007.

Specific Background

- 4.4 The review involved the following schools:-
- Belah Primary School
 - Kingmoor Infant School
 - Kingmoor Junior School
 - Stanwix Primary School
- 4.5 The consultation exercise was based on the document attached as Appendix A. It argued the case for change and outlined the agreed options which were set out on pages 11 and 12. It also indicated the implications of the options, provided a good deal of contextual information and began to point to ways in which conclusions might be drawn. A questionnaire was included to capture preferences and comments and encourage new and revised options to be put forward.
- 4.6 In all, around 1800 copies of the consultation document were distributed/made available in early June 2007. They were aimed at parents of pupils at the four schools, pre-school parents in the area, school staff and governors, neighbouring schools, other partner organisations and the general public.
- 4.7 A series of meetings at each of the four schools to consider the content of the consultation document took place in the second half of June this year. In

line with the established practice, there were separate meetings for school councils, staff, governors and parents. There were also meetings of local Neighbourhood Forums to consult with the wider community and drop-in sessions for parents were offered.

- 4.8 A range of different ways of responding to the consultation document were suggested. The consultation period ended on 20 July 2007.

Feedback from the Consultation

General

- 4.9 Details of the response to the consultation process is contained in appendices as follows:

- Appendix B – Notes of the consultation meetings with student councils, school staff, governors and parents.
- Appendix C – Notes of the Belah & Kingmoor Community Neighbourhood Forum meeting.
- Appendix D – Notes of the Stanwix Community Neighbourhood Forum meeting.
- Appendix E – CN Research (CNR) report on 'Planning primary education for the North Carlisle area'.
- Appendix F – Responses from organisations / groups.

- 4.10 Around 300 responses to the consultation document were received. The response rate of 17% is significantly higher than that for similar exercises undertaken recently.

Analysis of CN Research (CNR)

- 4.11 As is now the usual practice for school organisation reviews of the scope of this one, an independent company, CNR, was commissioned to analyse the responses received. In addition to the report on feedback which forms Appendix E, there is a 'verbatim' account of the responses received which also runs to over 100 pages. This is available on request and there will be copies for reference provided at the meeting.
- 4.12 There were five options in the consultation document each with a number of elements within them. As can be seen from CNR's report, there was a wide spectrum of points made and issues raised in response to the document.
- 4.13 In simple aggregate terms there were clear cut responses to all of the questions posed in the questionnaire contained in the consultation document. The details are included in the boxes below.

Q1. The Local Partnership Group felt there was a need for some change in the organisation of schools in the North Carlisle area.

Do you agree?

Yes %	No %	Don't know %
82	13	6

Q2. The Local Partnership Group felt it was not appropriate to retain Belah School.

Do you agree?

Yes %	No %	Don't know %
61	30	8

Q3. What do you think of each of the five proposed options?

	In favour %	Against %	No preference %
Option 1	28	48	24
Option 2	22	52	27
Option 3	23	50	27
Option 4	66	24	10
Option 5	11	85	4

Q4. What is your preferred option?

	Preferred Option%
Option 1	12
Option 2	3
Option 3	6
Option 4	57
Option 5	6

Q5. Do you think there should be an all-through primary school on the Kingmoor site?

Yes %	No %	Don't know %
70	15	15

Q6. Do you think that Stanwix School should be relocated to the Belah site?

Yes %	No %	Don't know %
11	83	6

4.14 Whilst as indicated earlier this aggregated data seems to send out clear messages, there were different levels of responses from those associated with the four schools. The percentage of the responses received from each school community, which it is recognised were disproportionate to the respective school rolls, were:

- Belah 6%
- Kingmoor Infant 13%
- Kingmoor Junior 11%
- Stanwix 61%

4.15 Naturally enough, and as can be detected from the CNR report, the nature of the individual responses tend to reflect the perceived advantages / disadvantages of the particular options for the schools with which respondents are associated. The responses to the questions, set out in paragraph 4.11 above, have therefore to be viewed with that in mind.

4.16 Having said that, it seems reasonable to conclude from the outcome of the consultation that there is general acknowledgement that change to primary education in the area is needed. With 82% agreeing with the Carlisle LPG on that score, this seems conclusive. This is particularly so as the majority of respondents associated with each school felt that way.

4.17 The majority of each school community also felt that it would be inappropriate for Stanwix School to be relocated on the Belah site (Option 5).

4.18 With regard to the other questions, self-interest appears to have conditioned the responses. Furthermore, the size of the overall response from the Stanwix School community skews the headline outcomes to a significant extent.

4.19 Members are encouraged to study the CNR report and form their own views. However, the clear messages from the consultation process seem to be that:

- there is agreement that change is needed
 - Stanwix School should remain on its current site
- 4.20 Assuming that these messages are accepted as representative and that they should influence outcomes, of the possibilities for change set out in the consultation document, this leaves for consideration:

- the potential closure of Belah School
- and
- the possible amalgamation of Kingmoor Infant and Junior Schools

Belah School – Alternative Options

General

- 4.21 As indicated earlier, the consultation document encouraged the identification and exploration of options other than those agreed by the LPG, SOF and Cabinet.
- 4.22 At the consultation meeting for parents at Belah School on 8 June 2007 those present, including County Council officers, were presented with a document headed 'Northern Primaries Together'. This is reproduced as Appendix G and contains ideas for the retention of all four schools, including Belah.
- 4.23 During that meeting a request was made that members of the School Organisation Team meet representatives of those who put the 'Northern Primaries Document' together to discuss their ideas. It was readily agreed that such a meeting should take place.
- 4.24 The meeting took place on 9 July. The discussion was amicable and considered. The ideas in 'Northern Primaries Together' and a document entitled 'An Innovative Eco Sustainable School for Belah Community', which was tabled at the meeting, were explained. In turn, the School Organisation Team members and other County Council officer colleagues who were present asked a range of question related to those ideas.
- 4.25 At the end of the meeting it was agreed that the local representatives would do some further thinking and work on, for example, how the envisaged smaller Belah School would be organised, be financially viable on an on-going basis, and maintain and improve educational standards whilst working to get rid of the large budget deficit.
- 4.26 The Group indicated that, of the three possibilities set out in the document 'Northern Primaries Together', their preference was for 'Idea 3' which they indicated they would be developing further. At the end of the meeting it was agreed to reconvene on 9 August to consider the further details which the group had agreed to work up.
- 4.27 In the event, the Group did not make arrangements to attend the planned second meeting. The School Organisation Team then offered a range of

dates for a meeting in August. This was followed up by further contact with the Group and dates for a meeting in mid September were suggested. Eventually, on 25 September, members of the School Organisation Team met with a single representative of the Group. Although there was some further discussion on the outcomes of the consultation and the Group's ideas, nothing concrete in terms of outputs from the further work which was to be carried out by the Group was provided.

An Assessment of these Further Ideas

- 4.28 The ideas set out in the documents attached as Appendices G and H would see Belah School retained but downsized. They involve remodelling and reducing the size of the current school building or completely replacing it with a brand new building.
- 4.29 Leaving aside important issues like pupil numbers and places, school popularity and the existing budget deficit situation, the suggestions do have some attractions. The retention of the school for the Belah community, new or improved buildings and somewhat reduced revenue costs are amongst them.
- 4.30 However, the alternative ideas fail to address some of the important issues which were the focus of the review of primary education in North Carlisle. They are also felt to be flawed in other respects.
- 4.31 The weaknesses of the suggestions include:
- The ideas do not deal with the very large and increasing budget deficit. The proceeds of any sale of land could not be used to support the school's revenue budget. This would be to differentially fund Belah School compared to other Cumbrian schools and that is illegal.
 - As there are sufficient school places in the area, significant investment in Belah School appears to be unjustified.
 - For the school to become viable, it would need to be much more popular with parents than it has been and is currently. These alternative ideas are far from guaranteed to reverse the trend which has endured for many years now.
 - A school with 120 pupils is not ideal in terms of class organisation. If the Council was going to invest in a brand new school it would probably want it to have at least 210 places which is much sounder in terms of internal organisation arrangements. Providing a school of such a size is clearly not tenable given the current demographics.

Support for the Alternative Options

- 4.32 The document 'Northern Primaries Together' (Appendix G) was distributed widely by those who produced it. As Members will see, the final page took the form of a slip which people were invited to sign to indicate support for the alternative ideas and to send it to the School Organisation Team. Around 500 of the slips were received by the Team.

4.33 Whilst this suggests a good deal of support for the local group's suggestions, it is important for Members to be aware that:-

- the interest of those who signed the slips as, for example, parents, governors, residents of North Carlisle is not known
- many were returned in batches from businesses and other groups
- the 'Northern Primaries Together' document did not set the issue of the future of Belah School in the same detailed context as the Authority's consultation document had done
- the 'Northern Primaries Together' document:
 - implied strongly that it was produced by and with the formal support of all four schools when that was not the case
 - stated that "all four schools oppose the options put forward by the Reorganisation Team" when this was untrue, e.g. Option 4 was unanimously supported at the formal consultation meeting with Stanwix School parents and the Stanwix governors gave it their support in their response to the consultation exercise

The 'Costs' and 'Benefits' of the Options

4.34 In order to help Members come to a conclusion about a possible way to proceed following the review, an exercise to assess the social/educational/financial costs/benefits, disadvantages/advantages and risks associated with the options (including the additional option) was undertaken.

4.35 The outcome of this work is summarised in Appendix I. This should complement the other data, comment and analysis provided in the report.

The Position of the Schools

4.36 Written responses to the consultation were received from the governors of Kingmoor Infant, Kingmoor Junior and Stanwix Schools. The governors of Belah School did not make a response.

4.37 As is now the norm following large scale consultation exercises, meetings have been held in the last few weeks with the schools concerned. These have involved heads and chairs of governors. At the meetings, details of the response to the consultation were explained, schools' positions were clarified and queries were invited and answered.

4.38 The meeting at Stanwix confirmed that the school remained, as stated in their letter of response to the consultation document, in support of Option 4, i.e. the closure of Belah School with its catchment area being split between the Kingmoor Schools and Stanwix, plus the amalgamation of the Kingmoor Schools.

4.39 The views of the Kingmoor Schools are currently very similar to that indicated in the governors' feedback during the consultation. They are

prepared to play their part in making alternative provision if Belah School was to close but do not feel able to support the amalgamation of their two schools in the same timeframe.

- 4.40 The Chair of Governors was unable to attend the meeting at Belah School at which the Acting Head was present. The current position of Belah School governors is not known.

Establishing a Way Forward

General Background

- 4.41 The consultation document spelt out the range of difficulties facing Belah School. It also raised the current position regarding an overprovision of school places and the Authority's preference for all-through schools, as opposed to separate infant and junior schools.
- 4.42 The response to the consultation supported Carlisle LPG's view that there needed to be change to the provision of primary education in North Carlisle. It was also pretty conclusive on the possibility of the relocation of Stanwix School. Members may well feel that this should influence outcomes. If so, as indicated earlier, this essentially leaves for consideration the future of Belah School and the potential merger of the Kingmoor Schools, two issues on which the consultation produced less clear messages.

Belah School

The Options

- 4.43 Firstly, in relation to Belah School, although the consultation document indicated rightly that it could be retained, its closure was included in all of the five options. This was because it was felt that the situation at the school had deteriorated so much that it was not viable financially or educationally.

Popularity and Pupil Numbers

- 4.44 Ten years or so ago there were over 320 (primary aged) pupils attending Belah School. At the start of the current academic year the pupil roll stood at 53.
- 4.45 At the start of that ten year period the school began to become less popular. A number of heads subsequently came and went. There were long periods when heads were sick or absent for other reasons. Tensions amongst the staff and between staff and governors existed. Educational standards were detrimentally affected and the school steadily lost the confidence of the majority of the community it served. Currently, over 80% of primary-aged children in the school's catchment area attend other schools.
- 4.46 At the end of the current academic year, the school's 15 Year 6 pupils will leave. In 2010 the number leaving the school is 14. Admissions to reception in the last two years have been 7 and 2.
- 4.47 This suggests very strongly that if the school were to stay open its roll would inevitably continue to fall. The impact of the reduction in numbers on the

school's financial position and on educational standards has been significant and this is covered below.

Educational Standards

- 4.48 For a range of reasons, including the fall in pupil numbers and the associated financial difficulties faced by the school, educational standards have declined in recent years. The negative impact on pupils' progress and attainment has been significant. There are more detailed comments on standards at the school in the section on Option 1 in Appendix I and in the consultation document (Appendix A, page 8).
- 4.49 Currently the pupils' education is being protected by the input of quite considerable staffing and other resources way beyond what the school could afford from its own budgetary provision.

Budgetary Issues

- 4.50 As indicated in the consultation document, the school went into deficit five years ago. The deficit rose year on year and had reached £150k in 2006/07.
- 4.51 The steps to protect the education of the school's pupils, referred to in paragraph 4.49, and the further reduction in the pupil roll is likely to push that deficit up to £220k-£240k at the end of the present financial year. The prognosis for future years if the school stays open is likely to be even worse than was envisaged when the consultation document was written (see page 8 of Appendix A).
- 4.52 It is hard, with its income largely derived from a pupil roll of around 40, to conceive that the school could possibly eradicate the deficit over a reasonable period of time as it must do if it stays open. It would certainly not be possible to do so whilst maintaining even the current educational standards and outcomes for its pupils.

Overall

- 4.53 The scenario outlined in this section on Belah School makes for very unhappy reading. The issues involved are also covered in the consultation document and Appendix I. There seems to be no way back from the current position and that the school has to close.

The Kingmoor Schools

- 4.54 As stated earlier, the head and governors of the Kingmoor Schools feel it would not be appropriate for the schools to go through an 'amalgamation' process at the same time as helping in the implementation of any decision to close Belah School. They feel that this would lead to too great a strain on staff and the real risk of damage to the pupil's education. This does not seem an unreasonable judgement to make and Members may well wish to go along with it.
- 4.55 Given the Council's preference for all-through schools, it is recognised by the schools that, if it is left now, there will be a wish to return to the issue before too long. This the Governors are likely to accept and are to consider

soon the possibility of a 'hard' federation of the two schools with a single governing body. Such a federation could be seen as a stepping stone to amalgamation.

Pupil Numbers / Places in the Area

- 4.56 The consultation document gave details of pupil projections and school places. It concluded that the provision of places at the Kingmoor Schools and Stanwix School would be more than sufficient to provide for future intakes from within the North Carlisle area. This remains the case recognising both the preferences that parents in North Carlisle have for maintained schools outside the area and in the independent sector and housing development currently underway or planned.
- 4.57 The Kingmoor Schools and Stanwix are popular. If Belah School does close, the remaining schools will have less scope to offer places to children from outside the area.

Summary of the Potential Way Forward

- 4.58 In line with what has been said above, the potential way forward implied can be summarised as follows:-
- The closure of Belah School to be formally proposed with effect from 31 August 2008.
 - Provision for the pupils attending Belah School at the time of its closure (other than those in Year 6 who will be transferring to secondary school) to be made at the Kingmoor Schools from September 2008.
 - Belah School's catchment area to be split, as indicated in the consultation document, and incorporated into the catchment areas of the Kingmoor Schools and Stanwix School.
 - The published admission numbers for the Kingmoor Schools and Stanwix School to remain at their present levels.
 - With effect from September 2008, the age-range of Kingmoor Infant School to be extended from 4-7 to 3-7 to enable the admission of younger pupils, thereby reflecting the current position at Belah School.
 - As much as possible of the early years and extended services provision at Belah School and made through the Oak Tree Pre-School and After School's Club on the Kingmoor site to be continued from September 2008 under the auspices of the Kingmoor governors.
 - The existing executive headship arrangements involving the two Kingmoor Schools to continue to operate subject to periodic review.
 - Kingmoor Infant and Junior Schools to remain as separate entities for the time being but for there to be:-
 - early consideration by the two sets of governors of moving to a 'hard' federation of the two schools under a single governing body

- a revisiting, within a couple of years or so, of the potential 'amalgamation' of the schools to form a single 3-11 primary school

The Next Steps and Transitional Arrangements

General

- 4.59 Coming to a conclusion on a way forward is just the start of the change process. Work on a number of fronts over the next few months and beyond will be necessary to move towards and achieve implementation.
- 4.60 It is important for Members to be aware of the kind of action necessary. This is categorised and described in the rest of this section of the report.

The Publication of Formal Proposals

- 4.61 The recommendations, if accepted as they stand, mean that the Council would publish two statutory proposals as soon as possible following the Cabinet meeting.
- 4.62 These proposals would involve:-
- the closure of Belah School on 31 August 2008
 - a change of age-range from 4-7 to 3-7 for Kingmoor Infant School from 1 September 2008
- 4.63 After the publication of proposals there is a six week period for representations to be made. The County Council then has two months in which to decide whether to approve and implement the proposals. The matter would be likely, subject to call-in, to come back to Cabinet for a final decision in December or early next year.
- 4.64 If Cabinet does decide to press on with change, it is important to seek to take the subsequent decisions involved as quickly as possible to provide certainty for those involved and to help create a stable context for undertaking the planning necessary to achieve implementation.

Establishing and Operating a Transition Group

- 4.65 For each area where changes arise from school reviews, a local group to plan and oversee the necessary transitional arrangements is set up as soon as the Cabinet agrees a way forward. These groups are made up of Council officers and representatives from the local schools affected.
- 4.66 The groups can access additional resources to ensure educational standards are maintained during the period of change. Issues normally dealt with include human resources, transport, training needs and so on.

Developing Facilities on the Kingmoor Site

- 4.67 There would be a need to arrange, for a limited period of time, temporary accommodation to handle the increase in rolls brought about by the transfer of Belah pupils. The additional space needs would not be great, given that

the maximum number of pupils from Belah who would attend the Kingmoor Schools from September would be 38.

- 4.68 New permanent accommodation would have to be provided for the early years provision.
- 4.69 Tentative planning to provide these additional facilities has started to ensure that any decisions taken by Cabinet can be successfully implemented at the beginning of next academic year.

The Belah Site

- 4.70 Consideration of the future of the site would need to occur quickly should a decision to close Belah School be taken.
- 4.71 In this process it will be important to consider the degree to which facilities and services for the wider community can be maintained, or preferably, enhanced.

The Kingmoor Infant and Junior School Partnership

- 4.72 Support would need to be given to the school governors as they consider whether to proceed to a 'hard' federation and, if they do so, how it would operate.
- 4.73 In the slightly longer-term, discussions and further consultation on creating a single-school on the Kingmoor site would need to take place.

5.0 OPTIONS

- 5.1 In section 4 of the report a possible way forward is identified and this is reflected in the recommendations.
- 5.2 Members can agree to move ahead on the basis of this potential way forward, suggest variations to it or adopt an entirely different approach.

6.0 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 All involved in the review of primary education in the North of Carlisle would prefer the situation relating to Belah School to be different. This is particularly so for those directly involved with the school. They, though, maybe more than most, must fully realise that the difficulties it faces are virtually insurmountable and that decisive action is needed now.
- 6.2 The ideas put forward as alternatives to the options in the consultation document seem impractical and difficult to implement with any real justification. They involve the retention of Belah School which for financial reasons will not work and will therefore not benefit its pupils. In any case, the school places that would be left there are not needed.
- 6.3 The only conclusion that can reasonably be drawn is that the situation the school faces is irretrievable. Moreover and very importantly, the alternative provision for the few pupils who will remain at Belah School and the pre-

school children who would have attended it is of very good quality and not too far away.

- 6.4 The other schools have indicated a willingness, to play their part in providing for Belah children. As far as the Kingmoor Schools are concerned, it does seem too tall an order to amalgamate at the same time as assimilating the Belah pupils and a merger can wait.
- 6.5 The potential way forward summarised in paragraph 4.58 seems a sound and workable way to progress. It has to be in the best interests of the existing and potential pupils of Belah School. Furthermore, it ought to provide the stability in the primary education system in the area that has been lacking for some considerable time. That must be to the benefit of pupils, school staff, governors and parents alike.

Jim Mitchell

Manager / Coordinator, School Organisation Project Team

27 September 2007

APPENDICES

- Appendix A** – **‘Planning primary education for the North Carlisle area – A consultation document’.**
- Appendix B** – **Notes of the consultation meetings with student councils, schools’ staff, governors and parents.**
- Appendix C** – **Notes of the Belah and Kingmoor Community Neighbourhood Forum meeting.**
- Appendix D** – **Notes of the Stanwix Community Neighbourhood Forum meeting**
- Appendix E** – **CN Research (CNR) report on ‘Planning primary education for the North Carlisle area’.**
- Appendix F** – **Responses from organisations/groups**
- Appendix G** - **‘Northern Primaries Together’**
- Appendix H** - **‘An Innovative Eco Sustainable School for Belah Community**
- Appendix I** - **The ‘Costs’ / ‘Benefits’ of the Options**

IMPLICATIONS

Staffing: There are real/potential implications for staff working in schools which are the subject of school organisation change. Staffing issues in relation to the potential changes covered in this report are dealt on page 15 of the consultation document which forms part of Appendix A.

Financial:

Revenue - The potential implications concern the use of existing resources rather than absolute fluctuations in budget levels overall. Moreover, school organisation change can lead to a more effective use of resources.

Capital - Capital investment would be required to implement each of the possible school organisation changes dealt with in this report. Provision for the changes which are the subject of recommendations is already made in the Authority's Capital Plan.

Electoral Division(s): All Carlisle Local Committee Members.

Executive Decision

Key Decision

If a Key Decision, is the proposal published in the current Forward Plan?

Is the decision exempt from call-in on grounds of urgency?

If exempt from call-in, has the agreement of the Chair of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee been sought or obtained?

Has this matter been considered by Overview and Scrutiny?
If so, give details below.

PREVIOUS RELEVANT COUNCIL OR EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

Cabinet, 7 September 2005

Cabinet, 30 January 2007

Cabinet, 13 March 2007

CONSIDERATION BY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

Not considered by Overview and Scrutiny.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Enhancing Lives Through Learning – A Vision for Schools in Cumbria (2006)

RESPONSIBLE CABINET MEMBER

Jim Buchanan

Contact: Jim Mitchell, Manager/Coordinator, School Organisation Project

Tel: 01228 601129 – Mobile: 07971 446247

Email: jim.mitchell@cumbriacc.gov.uk