

EXECUTIVE

DATE: 3RD MARCH, 2003

SUBJECT: REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY COHESION SCRUTINY
PANEL – STICKING TOGETHER – EMBRACING DIVERSITY
IN LUTON

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF SCRUTINY

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IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL	STAFFING
EQUALITIES	COMMUNITY SAFETY
FINANCIAL	RISKS
OTHER	

CONSULTATIONS:

COUNCILLORS CONSULTED	SCRUTINY COMMITTEE CONSULTED
STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTED	OTHER ✓

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

LEAD EXECUTIVE MEMBER(S): COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. Executive is recommended to receive the conclusions and recommendations of the Community Cohesion Scrutiny Panel as set out at Appendix A to the report of the Director of Scrutiny.

REPORT

2. The Community Cohesion Scrutiny Panel was established at the meeting of Regeneration and Citizenship Scrutiny Committee on 13th September, 2001 arising from the Committee's consideration of the report by Sir Herman Ouseley on Bradford (Ref: 6.2). The recommendation of Regeneration and Citizenship Scrutiny Committee was considered by the Lifelong Learning and Social Inclusion Scrutiny Committee on 26th September, 2001 (Ref:7).
3. The Panel undertook a wide-ranging consultation with local groups and individuals to try to find out what people think and feel about race and community relations in Luton. The report of the Panel (previously circulated to all Members of the Council) summarises the results of that consultation and sets out their findings. The overall conclusion is that there is much to celebrate about Luton; however the report

emphasises that we cannot afford to be complacent and that we now have an opportunity to build on what has already been achieved and to face up to and address the issues identified by the Panel based on the views of local people. The Panel has identified ten key issues that they feel should be addressed as a priority, however there are other issues and actions referred to within the body of the report.

4. The report of the Panel was 'launched' on 28th January at an event Chaired by Councillor Hussain, the Chair of the Panel, to which all Members of the Council were invited. Ted Cante, former Chief Executive of Nottingham City Council and Chair of the panel that advises Ministers on community cohesion, was the keynote speaker. He outlined the guidance to local authorities and local strategic partnerships developed by his committee. Other Speakers included Bill McKenzie, Leader of the Council, Darra Singh, the Chief Executive, Zafar Khan, visiting lecturer at London University and Tony Dessent, Director of Lifelong Learning. The audience consisted of invited guests from many of the Council's partner organisations and the groups and organisations that had been consulted. Kelvin Hopkins MP was present and lent his support to the event and to the Panel's report.
5. Following consideration of the Panel's report by the Executive and the Council it is suggested that the Luton Forum, through the community cohesion sub group, should be asked to consider how the findings of the Panel should be addressed and to co-ordinate the responses of the partners represented on the Forum.
6. The Community Cohesion Scrutiny Panel at their meeting held on 18th December, 2002 resolved:-

"That the Report of the Community Cohesion Scrutiny Panel 'Sticking Together' be referred to the Executive and full Council following its launch on 28th January, 2003."

APPENDIX

Appendix A: Conclusions and recommendations of the Community Cohesion Scrutiny Panel as set out on pages 32 and 33 of their report – 'Sticking Together – Embracing Diversity in Luton', (previously circulated to all Members of the Council).

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Community Cohesion Scrutiny Panel Report Ref:- JSP/12/02/4.1
Reports to the Community Cohesion Scrutiny Panel