

EXECUTIVE

DATE: 7TH MAY, 2002

SUBJECT: PARKS, OPEN SPACES, NATURE RESERVES AND CONSERVATION AREAS

REPORT BY: ENVIRONMENT AND NON-EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL	<input type="checkbox"/>	COMMUNITY SAFETY	<input type="checkbox"/>
EQUALITIES	<input type="checkbox"/>	ENVIRONMENT	<input type="checkbox"/>
FINANCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/>	CONSULTATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/>
STAFFING	<input type="checkbox"/>	OTHER	<input type="checkbox"/>

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this report is to refer to the Executive the recommendations of the Environment and Non-Executive Functions Scrutiny Committee in relation to Parks, Open Spaces

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. **The Executive is recommended to confirm its adherence to Local Plan Policy OS1 with regard to preservation of public open space.**

REPORT

3. At its meeting held on 11th April, 2002 the Environment and Non-Executive Functions Scrutiny Committee received a presentation given by the Parks Manager relating to Parks, Open Spaces, Nature Reserves and Conservation Areas.
4. The Environment and Non-Executive Functions Scrutiny Committee were informed of the shortfall of open space within Luton.
5. **The Borough of Luton Local Plan, Policy OS1 : PRESERVATION OF EXISTING AREAS OF OPEN SPACE**

Existing areas of public open space including redundant school playing fields, private sports grounds, river corridors and sites of nature conservation interest, as defined in Chapter 3f, will normally be safeguarded from development unless an alternative and appropriate area of public open space within the same vicinity is provided in advance. This alternative should increase the overall open space provision in accordance with the underlying

objective. Public use of private open space will be encouraged where appropriate and any use or other development which restricts public access to public open space will normally be refused.

An exception to this policy is the former Vauxhall sports ground at the Brache, part of which can be used to provide student accommodation for the University of Luton.

6. During consideration of the presentation reference was made to the current consideration by the Council of a suitable site for a replacement swimming pool and the committee decided that the Council should be recommended to adhere to the Local Plan Policy OS1 set out above.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, SECTION 100D

7. Powerpoint presentation given to Environment and Non-Executive Functions Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday 11th April 2002 entitled Parks, Open Spaces, Nature Reserves and Conservation Areas.