

**REGENERATION AND CITIZENSHIP SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2001/02**

## Introduction

The Council's constitution, introduced in December 2001, provides that each of the scrutiny committees reports once a year to the Scrutiny Board. This is the first annual report of the Regeneration and Citizenship Scrutiny Committee.

## The Committee

During the year covered by this report the Membership of the Committee was as follows:

Chair	Councillor Shaw
Vice Chair	Councillor Siederer
Member	Councillor Akbar
Member	Councillor Hussain
Member	Councillor Johnston
Member	Councillor White

The terms of reference of the Regeneration and Citizenship Scrutiny Committee cover the following:

Executive portfolios	Citizenship and Quality of Life Regeneration Employment
Functions	Physical regeneration Inward Investment Major Projects Economic Development Heritage and Tourism Jobs and Training Business Advice and Interface New Deal – Welfare to Work Funding Regimes and Lottery Single Regeneration Budget European New Deal for Communities Regionalism Sports Action Zone Community Empowerment Democracy and Citizenship Community Plan Social Regeneration Culture and Arts Crime and Community Safety Equalities

Leisure and Amenities  
Consumer Protection  
Community and Leisure Centres

## **Mentors**

The Scrutiny Board appointed Councillors Ali and Hand to oversee the work of the Regeneration and Citizenship scrutiny committee

## **Panels**

Members of Regeneration and Citizenship Scrutiny Committee serve on the Leisure Panel, the Housing Panel and the Community Cohesion Panel.

## **The Role of Scrutiny Committees**

The role of scrutiny committees is as follows

- To hold the Executive to account
  - By considering Executive decisions which are 'called in'
  - By giving advice to the Executive about matters included in their forward plan
- To monitor and evaluate performance
  - Using performance Indicators
  - And best Value reviews of services
- To examine topics of public interest or concern
- To consider topics referred by the Executive
- To undertake policy development, reviews and revision
- To undertake the role of community champion
  - By reviewing the performance of other public and 'common' services
  - By considering matters affecting the area and/or local people

## **Work completed**

The Committee has met generally every four weeks throughout the last municipal year. The topics considered by the Committee are set out in the attached appendix. Notable successes of the Committee include the brokering of a compromise with the Stockwood Rugby Club over the space needed to accommodate the Junior Golf Academy and the recommendations accepted by the Executive to be more pro-active about applying statutory remedies to youths identified as committing anti-social behaviour.

A number of topics remain under review including the consequences of the cessation of car production at the Luton Vauxhall plant and the proposal to develop a new swimming pool to replace Wardown Swimming and Leisure Centre. At the April meeting the Committee will receive a progress report on the restructuring of the Community Education and Development division.

### **Future Work**

The Committee has considered an extensive range of topics over the last twelve months but few of them have been considered in any great depth or have given rise to significant recommendations to the Executive or to the Council. This has been a common experience of all four Committees. The Scrutiny Board, at their meeting in December 2001, considered the experience of operating scrutiny since its inception in May 2000. The outcome of their consideration was a decision to adopt a much more structured and planned approach to scrutiny involving in depth reviews of relatively few major topics. The advice which is being given to the Scrutiny Committees is to have regard to the Council's vision, its corporate plan and the main priorities for the forthcoming year in considering what topics to select for the new work programme. The Committee will be considering its work programme for the forthcoming municipal year and submitting proposals to the Scrutiny Board.

Councillor T. Shaw  
Chair of the Regeneration and Citizenship Scrutiny Committee

2<sup>nd</sup> May 2002