

COMMITTEE: SCRUTINY BOARD

DATE: 22ND JANUARY 2003

SUBJECT: THE LUTON FORUM

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF SCRUTINY

CONTACT OFFICER: GEOFF. BOCUTT 546073

IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL	COMMUNITY SAFETY
EQUALITIES	ENVIRONMENT
FINANCIAL	CONSULTATIONS
STAFFING	OTHER

WARDS AFFECTED: NONE

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this report is to ask the Board to consider the merits of seeking to work with the themed groups established by the Luton Forum.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. **Scrutiny Board is recommended to advise on whether the Luton Forum should be asked to consider any form of joint working with their themed groups.**

BACKGROUND

3. The Luton Forum is now well established. It meets every two months. The Membership of the Forum includes community representatives, health, police, further/higher education, the Luton Dunstable Partnership, the Learning & Skills Council and Chamber Business as well as the Council. The forum was initiated by the Council to be the 'local strategic partnership' under the provisions of the Local government Act 2000. Its purpose is:

- To be the over-arching strategic partnership in the area to achieve improvements through smarter, more widely connected and more integrated working and through policy development
 - To change the way we deliver services to better reflect the community's needs
4. The Forum's tasks include:
 - To lead on the production of Luton's Community Plan
 - To produce the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy
 5. The Forum is underpinned by the Assembly that elects eleven community representatives to serve on the Forum. The assembly represents the large number of voluntary and community organisations that operate in the town.
 6. The results of a wide ranging consultation indicated a clear set of improvements that local people wish to see. These have been aggregated into six groups which form the basis of themed groups as follows:
 - A dynamic and creative town
 - Skills, training and employment
 - Quality of environment and sustainable communities
 - Crime reduction and community safety
 - Health
 - Community cohesion
 7. The purpose of these themed groups is to address:
 - The identified community needs (detailed in the community plan)
 - Local Neighbourhood Renewal Targets set by the Government
 - Floor targets or key Public Service Agreement targets
 8. Also each group will decide the allocation of Neighbourhood Renewal Fund monies within its area and may bid for further monies.

REPORT

9. The connection between scrutiny and the themed groups is that part of the role of scrutiny is to hold the Executive Portfolio holders and Heads of Service to account for service delivery and performance and part of the role of the themed groups is to monitor service delivery against key targets in relation to Neighbourhood Renewal and Public Service Agreements. There are other areas where collaborative working may be beneficial, for example in relation to health where the Council now has the power to scrutinise health bodies who provide or procure health services for Luton residents.

PROPOSAL/OPTION

10. It is suggested that the Forum is asked to consider the merits of working with scrutiny where there is a common interest.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, SECTION 100D

11. None