

COMMITTEE: AREA COMMITTEE BOARD

DATE: 24TH SEPTEMBER 2002

SUBJECT: AREA COMMITTEE PROGRESS

REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE (AREA COMMITTEE SUPPORT OFFICER)

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IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL	COMMUNITY SAFETY
EQUALITIES	ENVIRONMENT
FINANCIAL	CONSULTATIONS
STAFFING	OTHER

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the progress of Area Committees and to apprise them of how issues, which have been raised through this arena and the Area Committee Board, are being resolved.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. The Area Committee Board is recommended to note the report and make recommendations on further action where required.

BACKGROUND

3. Following the implementation of Area Committees in October 2002 three rounds of meetings have taken place along with four Area Board Meetings. Through this medium members of the public have raised a range of issues and the arena has facilitated an enabling process of achieving and resolving a number of the problems, which have been highlighted by local communities.

REPORT

4. The issues outlined above have been collated and are highlighted in the attached action plan. The items which are numbered (1 – 96) outlines all the issues and the outcomes for all the Area Committees from October 2001 to the current period.
5. The secondary set of numbers i.e. (1 – 48) covers all the issues, which have been raised by the Area Committee Board, for the same period.

6. Members will recall that at the last Area Committee Board, the subject of transport provision for Area Committees was discussed and it was resolved that this should be monitored for the next two cycles of meetings and a combination of both internal and external transport be used as means of evaluating cost and the quality of the provision.
7. Members will need to be aware that this was submitted for implementation but due to the limited amount of drivers within the Transport Division, who are willing to do overtime, they will be unable to provide any internal transport for the next round of meetings. It will therefore not be possible to undertake the comparative work that was requested by the Board, on this occasion. However, we will endeavour to pursue this at the January 2003 cycle of meetings.
8. During the last round of Area Committees there were some observations made by members of the public regarding the notice given for future Area Committees. As a result all individuals who have attended the last three meetings and whose names have been recorded on the database, were given notice of the dates of all Area Committees, during week commencing 13th August 2002.
9. Included in the latter mailing was information regarding the 'Made in Beds' organisation, information on transport arrangements, pro-forma for projects, complaints through Area Committees form (as requested by the Area Committee Board).
10. The 'Complaints Form' (attached as Appendix 2) has been well received and has already proved to be very popular
11. In addition to this, updated information has appeared on the Area Committees web site - www.luton.gov.uk/areacommittees and a pre-advertisement appeared in the Luton News, Dunstable Gazette, Herald & Post and Luton on Sunday Newspapers on the 4th 5th and 8th September respectively. This is in addition to the advertisement that will be placed nearer to the date and the additional notification by post, which will include the agenda.
12. A full report of the Area Committees is being made in the Lutonline, which will compliment an individual poster campaign for each committee date. This information has already appeared in LBC News (Staff Magazine) and via.e.mail to all LBC.

PROPOSAL/OPTION

13. It is proposed that Members of the Area Committee Board note the report and make their observations in accordance with the recommendations outlined in paragraph 2 of the report.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Action Plan

Appendix 2 - Area Committees Complaints Form

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, SECTION 100D

There are no background papers relating to this report.