

COMMITTEE: SCRUTINY BOARD
DATE: 31ST JANUARY 2005
SUBJECT: TRAINING ETC
REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF SCRUTINY
CONTACT OFFICER: GEOFF BOCUTT 01582 546073

IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL	COMMUNITY SAFETY
EQUALITIES	ENVIRONMENT
FINANCIAL	CONSULTATIONS
STAFFING	OTHER

WARDS AFFECTED: NONE

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this report is to seek views on the approach to Member Training and whether any changes to the scrutiny arrangements should be contemplated for next municipal year.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. **Scrutiny Board is recommended to consider the issues raised in the report and express a view as to the preferred courses of action.**

REPORT

Member Training

3. Scrutiny training events have been run for Members each year since the Council adopted Executive and Scrutiny arrangements. In the first year trainers from the Improvement and Development Agency were used;

subsequently training has been provided 'in house' and this year Jonathan Free from the East of England Regional Assembly delivered scrutiny training. The process of planning and developing scrutiny training for Members next year should be informed by Members preferences so the Board is asked to consider and advise on the best approach.

CfPS Champions Network

4. I receive a regular newsletter from the Centre for Public Scrutiny that I forward to the committee Chairs. Attached as an appendix is the CfPS December bulletin for information.

Scrutiny Arrangements

5. The last time the remits of the scrutiny committees was considered was when the then Lifelong Learning and Social Inclusion Scrutiny Committee was split into two to form the present structure of five committees. A number of panels have been formed for specific purposes and the Best Value Scrutiny Panel, whose remit has been extended to include efficiency, performance and procurement, is likely to be a permanent arrangement. The terms of reference of the scrutiny committees were never aligned either with the remits of the Executive Portfolio Holders or with the functions of the Council's departments, nor were they intended to be. However there have been changes recently to Executive Portfolio Holders' responsibilities and there will shortly be substantial changes to the Council's organisational structure, particularly with the formation of the Children and Learning department and consequential changes. Whilst there is no imperative to review or amend the remits of the scrutiny committees it seemed to me that the question should be asked and Members of the Board should have the opportunity to consider the matter.

PROPOSAL/OPTION

6. The Board is asked to consider the issues raise in the report and advise accordingly.

APPENDIX

CfPS December Bulletin

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, SECTION 100D**

Luton Borough Council constitution