

EXECUTIVE

DATE: 3RD MARCH, 2003

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY COHESION - GUIDANCE

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF SCRUTINY

CONTACT OFFICER: GEOFF BOCUTT 01582 546073

IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL	STAFFING
EQUALITIES	COMMUNITY SAFETY ✓
FINANCIAL	RISKS
OTHER	

CONSULTATIONS:

COUNCILLORS CONSULTED	SCRUTINY COMMITTEE CONSULTED	✓
STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTED ✓	OTHER	

WARDS AFFECTED: NONE

LEAD EXECUTIVE MEMBER(S): COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. Executive is recommended to refer the Guidance to the Community Cohesion Group of the Luton Forum to co-ordinate the responses of all the partners represented on the Forum.

REPORT

2. The Local Government Association published guidance on community cohesion on 11th December 2002. The guidance was prepared by the Community Cohesion Review Team chaired by Ted Cante who was the keynote speaker at the launch of the Community Cohesion Scrutiny Panel's report which is included elsewhere on this agenda. The draft guidance was the subject of wide consultation and the Panel responded to the draft on behalf of the Council. The guidance is endorsed by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, the Home Office, the Commission for Racial Equality and the Inter Faith Network.
3. Attached as an appendix is a Policy Briefing produced by the Local Government Information Unit that summarises the content of the guidance.

4. The Guidance identifies local authorities as community leaders but in partnership with other agencies and stakeholders. The guidance is therefore also addressed to Local Strategic Partnerships. The Luton Forum has formed six themed groups to address specific issues one of which is focussed on community cohesion. This themed group has included in its agenda addressing the recommendations in this guidance document.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

5. The scrutiny Panel's report has identified the importance of facing and addressing issues around race and community relations so that they do not become a source of anger and resentment. The report assessed race and community relations in Luton as being good and many of the points referred to in the guidance have already been identified and addressed by the Council and partner organisations.

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE CONSULTATIONS

6. The Community Cohesion Scrutiny Panel, at their last meeting on 18th December 2002, received an oral report from Councillor Hussain and me who attended the launch of the guidance.

STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTATIONS

7. The Community Cohesion sub group of the Luton Forum received a report on the guidance at their meeting on 21st January 2003.

OPTIONS

8. The options open to the Executive are to itself consider and address the guidance or to refer the guidance to the Community Cohesion group of the Luton Forum to co-ordinate the response of all the partners represented on the Forum.

APPENDIX

LGIU Policy Briefing 185/02

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Guidance on Community Cohesion – published by the Local Government Association on 11th December 2002