

COMMITTEE: REGENERATION AND CITIZENSHIP SCRUTINY
DATE: 17TH APRIL 2008
SUBJECT: LUTON'S SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY
REPORT BY: HEAD OF REGENERATION
CONTACT OFFICER: ANNE CLUBE 546668

IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL	✓	COMMUNITY SAFETY
EQUALITIES	✓	ENVIRONMENT
FINANCIAL		CONSULTATIONS
STAFFING		OTHER

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this report is to provide Scrutiny with an opportunity to provide comments on Luton's Draft Sustainable Community Strategy 2026.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. **Regeneration and Citizenship Committee is recommended to provide comments on Luton's Draft Sustainable Community Strategy 2026.**

BACKGROUND

3. The Local Government Act 2000 required local authorities to produce a community plan for their area, to act as an overarching plan involving statutory and all partners required to deliver it.

4. Luton produced its first Community Plan in 2002, which was refreshed in 2005. It is now working on a Sustainable Community Strategy which, once adopted by Full Council, will constitute its Community Plan.
5. Sustainable community strategies should contain:
 - The long term vision based firmly on local needs. This will be underpinned by a shared evidence base informed by community aspirations
 - Key priorities for the local area, based upon this vision which may realistically be achieved in the medium term – these will inform the strategy's delivery agreement – the Local Area Agreement.

REPORT

6. The Luton Forum has produced a Draft Sustainable Community Strategy 2026. This is out for consultation with Luton Forum partners, with the Assembly, and is available to the public via the Luton Forum website (www.lutonforum.org).
7. Consultation ends on 30 April. A final version will be submitted to the Luton Forum on 5 June for approval. Partners will then seek approval from within their organisations. At its meeting on 23 June, Luton Borough Council's Executive will be asked to recommend that Full Council adopt the Sustainable Community Strategy at its meeting f on 23 July.

PROPOSAL/OPTION

8. Regeneration and Citizenship Scrutiny Committee can provide comments on the Draft Sustainable Community Strategy.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9. There are no legal implications other than those set out in the body of this report and this has been agreed with Mary Cormack in Legal Services on 9 April 2008.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

10. There are significant equalities, inclusion and cohesion implications within the new Luton Sustainable Community Strategy as set out under the four key policy areas and priorities of Stronger and Safer Communities, Health and Well Being, Environment and Economy and Children and Young People..Consultation is currently taking place on the priorities set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy but it was felt that an Equalities Impact Assessment would not be appropriate for this Strategy as there is insufficient detailed information beyond the corporate commitment to

sustainability and the key priorities. Equality Impact Assessments will be carried out instead on the Local Area Agreement, which is the delivery plan for the strategy. The majority of bodies involved in LAAs are public bodies and as such, will all have legislative obligations to promote equality and prevent unlawful discrimination. The Council and its partners will be considering the extent to which the evidence they use during the LAA negotiations take account of the needs of all sections of the community and assess the extent to which the priorities have an impact on them. Through the EIA detailed consideration will be also made of the impact of the plan in terms of promoting community cohesion and social inclusion

11. Consultation on the Sustainable Community Strategy will be taken to specific groups of people, e.g. the Disability Advisory Forum, Race Advisory Forum, Luton Senior Citizens Panel and Luton All Women's Centre.

APPENDIX

Appendix A: Luton's Sustainable Community Strategy 2026: Consultation Draft
Appendix B: Consultation Questionnaire

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, SECTION 100D

Local Government Act 2000

Luton's Community Plan 2002-2012

Luton's Community Plan 2002-2012 (2005 Refresh)

Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities: Statutory Guidance: Draft for Consultation (November 2007)