

APPENDIX

LUTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

SCRUTINY BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT 2001/02

APPENDIX

Introduction

The Council's constitution, introduced in December 2001, provides that each of the scrutiny committees reports once a year to the Scrutiny Board and the Board reports once a year to the Council. This is the first annual report of the Scrutiny Board.

The Board

During the year covered by this report the Membership of the Board was as follows:

Chair	Councillor Dr. Hambleton
Vice Chair	Councillor R. Davies
Member	Councillor Ali
Member	Councillor Cole
Member	Councillor Dunnington
Member	Councillor Hand
Member	Councillor McCowen
Member	Councillor Saleem

The terms of reference of the Board include the powers of the scrutiny committees. In addition the Board has the role of overseeing the work of the scrutiny committees. The Board approves, reviews and monitors the work programmes of the scrutiny committees.

Mentors

The Scrutiny Board appointed the following Councillors to oversee the work of the scrutiny committees:

Committee	Members
Environment and Non Executive Functions	Councillor R Davies Councillor Dr. Hambleton
Lifelong Learning and Social Inclusion	Councillor McCowen Councillor Saleem
Performance, Resources and Assets	Councillor Cole Councillor Dunnington
Regeneration and Citizenship	Councillor Ali Councillor Hand

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Panels

Members of the Scrutiny Board serve on the Leisure Panel, the Housing Panel and the Community Cohesion Panel.

The Role of Scrutiny Committees

The role of the Scrutiny Board is to plan, organise, monitor and review the work of the Committees and panels and to evaluate the effectiveness of the scrutiny process. The Board can also exercise the power of scrutiny in its own right.

Work completed

The Board has met four times during the last municipal year.

The Board approved a work programme for the year for the scrutiny committees. The Board has been kept informed about the Government's intention to give Social Services authorities the power to scrutinise local health organisations and the Board approved a bid to the Department of Health to run a pilot jointly with Bedfordshire County Council. They also approved a response to the Government's consultation paper about how that power should be exercised. The Board has kept the arrangements for training Members and officers in the work of scrutiny under review.

A presentation on forced and arranged marriages was given to the Board. This issue has now been referred to the Community Cohesion panel to review.

The Board carried out a review of the scrutiny process based on the experience from the first two years of operation. The review took the form of a seminar to which all Members of the Council were invited. The result of the review was a decision to make significant and fundamental changes to the process based on a much more limited work programme of topics which represent the 'big issues' for the Council and the town. The new approach is to be used for the 2002/03 municipal year and will provide much greater depth using a planned approach to each topic over a number of meetings.

The Board decided to consult the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Scrutiny Committees about any constitutional changes they would like to see made.

Future Work

The results of the consultation with the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the scrutiny Committees will have been considered by the Board at their first meeting in the new municipal year with a view to making recommendations to the Constitution Committee. The Board will keep under consideration the arrangements for implementing overview and scrutiny of local NHS bodies. The Board will consider the proposals submitted by the scrutiny committees for their work programmes for the new municipal year. The Board will continue to monitor the work of the scrutiny committees and will undertake a further review of the effectiveness of the scrutiny process.

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Appendices

Attached are the annual reports of the four scrutiny committees approved by the Board.

Councillor Dr. Hambleton

Chair of the Scrutiny Board

30th May 2002