

MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

REQUEST TO ATTEND SEMINAR – CENTRE FOR PUBLIC SCRUTINY 8TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

18 MARCH 2010

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 For the Committee to consider nominating delegates to the Centre for Public Scrutiny's 8th Annual Conference and Exhibition to be held on 30 June – 1 July 2010.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Council's Overview and Scrutiny Handbook contains a protocol for use of the Scrutiny Committees budget by members to attend training and conferences relevant to the remit of the Committee.

3. Conference Details

- 3.1 An invitation has been received from the Centre of Public Scrutiny with regard to its 8th Annual Conference and Exhibition to be held **30 June – 1 July 2010, at The Brewery, London.**

- 3.2 The theme for this two day conference will be future accountability and transparency in public services.

- 3.3 Day one will cover regaining public trust, tackling inequalities and addressing how to sustain outcomes from accountability in hard financial times. There will also be a debate on how accountability can create opportunities for the public to shape the delivery of local services, for example, through the Total Place initiative.

On day two, a member development programme will offer councillors and other non-executive members an opportunity to network and discuss current issues. Themes will include questioning and chairing skills, skills needed to evaluate evidence and the role of politics in the scrutiny process.

- 3.4 The Council is eligible for an early bird rate of £359 + VAT per delegate which includes attendance at both days, dinner and refreshment, if booked by 31 March 2010. After this date, the rate per delegate will increase to £399 + VAT.

- 3.5 It is suggested that the Committee nominate one or two Members to attend the Conference.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 The Committee is asked to consider the attendance of Members to the above conference, to be accompanied by the Head of Overview and Scrutiny, to be funded from the budget of the Scrutiny Committee.

5. Background Papers

None

Contact Officer: Charlotte Burnham, Head of Overview and Scrutiny
(0191 561 1147)
charlotte.burnham@sunderland.gov.uk