

# **ENVIRONMENT AND ATTRACTIVE CITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**20 SEPTEMBER  
2010**

## **CENTRE FOR PUBLIC SCRUTINY 8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE - FEEDBACK REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**Strategic Priorities: SP5 Attractive and Inclusive City**

**Corporate Priorities: CI01- Delivering Customer Focused Services, CI04-  
Improving Partnership Working To Deliver 'One City'.**

### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide the Committee with verbal feedback from the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference that was held on 30 June and 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 (Protocol 5 refers). This allows Members to gain specialist knowledge and expertise within a particular area of scrutiny and is in addition to the list of standing conferences and corporate development programme.
- 2.2 At its last meeting, the Committee agreed to send a delegate to the CfPS Annual Scrutiny Conference held on Wednesday 30 June and Thursday 1 July 2010 at The Brewery, London. The Conference was attended by Councillor Rosalind Copeland who will provide verbal feedback at this meeting.

### **3. CONFERENCE PROGRAMME**

- 3.1 The theme for the annual conference was future accountability and transparency in public services.

Key issues included were:

- (a) Regaining public trust;
  - (b) Tackling Inequalities; and
  - (c) Addressing how to sustain outcomes in hard financial times:
- 3.2 At the end of the conference, it was envisaged that delegates would have:-
- (a) Heard directly from the government of the day about their vision for accountability in public service delivery;

- (b) Explored how public empowerment is becoming central to scrutiny and accountability across local government, police and the health service;
- (c) Explored how scrutiny can tackle today's issues- ensuring the public receive value for money in critical economic times;
- (d) Learnt about innovative techniques and best practice from experts across the public sector;
- (e) Met and shared ideas and experiences with colleagues facing the same challenges; and
- (f) Discovered what is on the horizon for the CfPS.

## **5. FEEDBACK FROM COUNCILLOR ALAN WRIGHT**

5.1 It was felt that the event overall offered useful contributions from several elements. Speakers of note included;

- Lord Victor Adebawale CBE who covered elected Members roles in tackling social inequalities;
- John Sneddon who covered challenging the culture of targets backed by a short presentation on changes being made in Portsmouth Council; and
- Jessica Crowe who covered coming challenges for scrutiny

5.2 Workshops covered topics such as;

- Tough choices on efficiency savings;
- Where professional evidence and public opinion collide; and
- Winning back public trust

5.3 The second day concluded with a series of discussion where delegates moved around several tables each covering different topics impacting on effective scrutiny. This gave an opportunity to meet delegates from different authorities and to consider new approaches to issues.

## **4. RECOMMENDATION**

4.1 The Committee is asked to receive verbal feedback from the conference delegate.

## **5. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- Seminar Programme

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