

MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

REQUEST TO ATTEND A CONFERENCE – LGC OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL CONFERENCE

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

15 SEPTEMBER 2011

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 For the Committee to consider the proposal of sending delegates to the Local Government Chronicle's Overview and Scrutiny Annual Conference to be held on Tuesday 8th November 2011.
- 1.2 The reason the request has been submitted as an urgent item, and in agreement with the Chair of the Committee, is to ensure that the Management Scrutiny Committee are in a position to secure the most cost effective charges in relation to attending and travelling to the conference.

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 LGC to attend it's 5th Annual Conference to be held **8th November 2011, at Greater London House, London.**
- 3.2 The main themes for the conference are to:
 - Identify how to increase the value of overview and scrutiny in the authority to guarantee the correct savings are made in the right areas;
 - Understand the impact of major legislation on overview and scrutiny;
 - Improve self-regulation and understand the affect the end of the Audit Commission will have on the authority;
 - Learn how to improve joint scrutiny of services across multiple authorities, and;
 - Develop new strategies for engaging communities in overview and scrutiny.
- 3.3 The Council is eligible for an early bird rate of £399 per delegate.
- 3.5 It is suggested that the Committee nominate the Chair of the Management Scrutiny Committee and the Head of Scrutiny and Area Arrangements to attend the conference, on behalf of the Scrutiny function, and report back to a future meeting of the committee.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 The Committee is asked to consider the attendance of the Chair of the Management Scrutiny Committee and the Head of Scrutiny and Area Arrangements to the above conference to be funded from the budget of the Scrutiny Committee.

5. Background Papers

None

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LGC Annual Scrutiny Conference 2011 - Programme

Overview

All local government authorities are facing the need to find efficiency savings and cut services. In these difficult times the role of overview and scrutiny local authorities are even more important to ensure that they are making the correct decisions.

Overview and scrutiny is a crucial tool for improving the efficiency and quality of services in your community. In recent years the roles and responsibilities of scrutiny officers have drastically altered and expanded. New legislation from central government will require more transparency from you team. Moreover, with shrinking resources and demands for budget cuts as well as an increased demand for increased public engagement with the introduction of 'armchair auditors'. This means overview and scrutiny officers and committee members are facing many changes and challenges that you need to understand and overcome.

Join the *Local Government Chronicle* and colleagues from across the country to ensure that you are fully able to respond to these obstacles.

Book your place today and return to your authority brimming with ideas to improve your scrutiny of services.

Attend this conference to:

- Identify how you can increase the value of overview and scrutiny in your authority to guarantee the correct savings are made in the right areas
- Understand the impact of major legislation on overview and scrutiny
- Improve your self-regulation and understand the affect the end of the Audit Commission on your authority
- Learn how you can improve joint scrutiny of services across multiple authorities
- Develop new strategies for engaging communities in overview and scrutiny

Who's speaking?

Dr Andrew Coulson

Senior Lecturer - Insitute of Local Government Studies
University of Birmingham

Andrew Coulson is an experienced researcher, teacher, trainer and writer. He has 35 years experience of local government as a local government officer working on economic development and regeneration in Sheffield, as a councillor in Birmingham, and as an academic specialising in local government.

John Cade

Visiting Professor - Institute of Local Government Studies
University of Birmingham

John Cade is a Visiting Lecturer with the Institute of Local Government, University of Birmingham. From 2000 -2010 he was Director of Scrutiny with Birmingham City Council, having previously been Head of Policy.

Amobi Modu

Head of Delivery Analysis and Support Unit
Home Office

Mark Lowe

Policy Officer

Adur District Council and Worthing Borough Council

Mark is an experienced Scrutiny Officer practitioner with over 25 years experience in Local Government, the vast majority of which has been spent providing direct support to Councillors and managing the Overview and Scrutiny function since 2001. Mark currently manages the Overview and Scrutiny function for Adur District Council and Worthing Borough Council in West Sussex which includes the Joint Overview and Scrutiny function implemented by both Councils as part of their Partnership working.

Dr Alison Giles

Chief Executive

Our Life

Alison has led the development of Our Life from its inception as a programme within NHS North West to the independent social enterprise it is today. Our Life delivers high-quality public participation processes, research and training to ensure people are given the opportunity to influence and deliver change that supports their community's wellbeing.

Ed Moses

Senior Policy Manager – Policy Unit
Department of Health

Su Turner

Principle Consultant

Centre for Public Scrutiny

Su works across two organisations (The Centre for Public Scrutiny and Local Government Improvement and Development) - both with the aim of helping local councils and their partners improve the health of their communities and reduce inequalities. Su's background in and experience of working in senior policy and partnership roles within local government and the NHS has been vital in the development of her work at a national level.

Helen Kenny

Scrutiny Officer - Democratic Services
West Sussex County Council

Helen Kenny has been a Scrutiny Officer at West Sussex County Council for 5 years, leading on health scrutiny for 3 years, and is the lead officer for the South East Health Scrutiny Network. Helen has a degree in Politics and has had a number of different roles in local government since 1992, largely focused around policy, research, consultation and engagement.

Jane Belman

Scrutiny and Improvement Officer
Cambridgeshire County Council

Jane Belman is the health and adult social care Scrutiny Officer for Cambridgeshire County Council, and has worked with councillors over the past seven years to establish and develop the Council's strong and well-respected health overview and scrutiny function.

Matt Clack

Overview and Scrutiny Officer
London Borough of Hackney

Matt started his Overview & Scrutiny career in 2005, following a short stint as a Democratic Services officer. Having worked in the London Borough of Enfield (supporting adult social services and environment committees) he moved in Hackney in 2007, supporting their housing and public realm committee. Matt supports service development for the wider Overview & Scrutiny function, looking at better ways of demonstrating performance and finding better ways of working with local public non-executives.

Cllr Ruth Cadbury

Deputy Chair
LG Improvement Programme Board

Cllr Neil Carke

Leader
Rushcliffe Borough Council
Chair
Districts Council Network

June Hunter

Scrutiny Manager
Newcastle City Council

Cllr Kevin Reynolds

Chair - Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Cambridgeshire County Council

Emily McGuinness

Scrutiny Manager
South Somerset District Council

Emily graduated from Birmingham University in 2000 with a degree in International Studies with Political Science. Since then she has worked for Dacorum Borough Council, Chesterfield Borough Council and South Somerset District Council, where she is Scrutiny Manager.

Cllr Christine Field

Chair - Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
West Sussex County Council