

MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

REQUEST TO ATTEND SEMINAR – CENTRE FOR PUBLIC SCRUTINY'S PARLIAMENTARY SEMINAR SERIES – 1 DECEMBER 2009, HOUSE OF COMMONS

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

22 OCTOBER 2009

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 For the Committee to endorse the Vice Chair's attendance to the Centre for Public Scrutiny's Parliamentary Seminar to be held on 1 December 2009.

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 The Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) is running its annual free Parliamentary Seminar series, held at the House of Commons during November 2009 to March 2010 on the following dates:-

10 November 2009;

1 December 2009;

19 January 2010;

9 February 2010; and

2 March 2010.

- 3.2 Places are restricted to **one place per an Authority for the whole Parliamentary Seminar series** and it is strongly recommended that delegates book earlier due to limited availability and historically all spaces have been claimed within days.
- 3.3 Sunderland City Council has secured **one place** on 1 December 2009 seminar and has also been added to the reserve list should any places become available on the remainder of the series.
- 3.4 In relation to programme content, it is proposed that the morning session will outline the powers and work of Select Committees from a Chair's perspective, with an afternoon session tailored to different topics, with the opportunity to observe a Select Committee in operation.

3.5 Suggested target audience for the series are Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs, although officers are welcome but priority will be given to Members. As such the Vice Chair of this Scrutiny Committee has registered his interest in attending the Parliamentary Seminar to be held on 1 December 2009.

4. Recommendation

4.1 The Committee is asked to endorse the Vice Chair's attendance to Parliamentary Seminar being held on 1 December 2009 and that the cost of rail travel is funded from the dedicated budget of this Scrutiny Committee.

5. Background Papers

Conference invitation issued by the Centre for Public Scrutiny.

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