

MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

REQUEST TO ATTEND SEMINAR – CENTRE FOR PUBLIC SCRUTINY 10TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

19 JANUARY 2012

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 For the Committee to consider nominating delegates to the Centre for Public Scrutiny's 10th Annual Conference to be held on Tuesday 12th June 2012.

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 it's 10th Annual Conference and Exhibition to be held **12 June 2012, at Local Government House, London.**
- 3.2 The title for this years conference is 'Powerful, Accountable, Local' and will explore the theme of 'hyper-local' accountability, by examining the opportunities and potential problems of the changing nature of accountability across local government, health, housing and related fields. The conference will also aim to look at how the ambition to involve more neighbourhoods and communities in service delivery may hamper the ability of councils to effectively make strategic decisions across their local area. Other issues that the conference will look to address include how the scrutiny of public service delivery will be impacted by the growing voice and choice of services users, and how scrutiny can engage with communities at the hyper-local level in the face of tighter budgets.
- 3.3 The conference will allow attendees to learn about the latest developments in local government and public service accountability, share ideas through workshops and networking and listen to high profile speakers discuss how scrutiny can continue to make a positive contribution in the delivery of public services. Confirmed speakers already include Professor Sir Michael Marmot and Ben Page, Chief Executive of Ipsos MORI.
- 3.4 Alongside the Conference is the Officer and Member Development Day, which will only be offered if there is sufficient interest. This will take place on Wednesday 13 June 2012 and will be a full day of interactive learning. It will aim to provide delegates with tools, tips and techniques to increase the impact that scrutiny can have at a local level.

3.4 While the costs of the conference are unknown at this time it has been highlighted that prices will be reduced from the rates of the 2011 conference.

3.5 It is suggested that the Committee nominate a maximum of three Members to attend the Conference along with an appropriate representative from the Scrutiny and Area Arrangements team. Members should also discuss the additional option of attendance at the Officer/Member Development Day.

4. Recommendation

4.1 The Committee is asked to consider one of the following options:

- a) attendance of Members and appropriate officer to the CfPS Annual Scrutiny Conference to be funded from the budget of the Scrutiny Committee; or,
- b) attendance of Members and appropriate officer to the CfPS Annual Scrutiny Conference and the additional Officer/Member Development Day.

5. Background Papers

None

Contact Officer: Nigel Cummings, Scrutiny Officer
(0191 561 1006)
nigel.cummings@sunderland.gov.uk