

## CENTRE FOR PUBLIC SCRUTINY 9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE - FEEDBACK

### REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

#### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide the Committee with verbal feedback from the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference that was held on 2 June 2011.

#### 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 In April 2011, it was agreed to send delegates from the Management Scrutiny Committee to the CfPS Annual Scrutiny Conference held on Thursday 2 June 2011 at The Novotel West, London. The Conference was attended by Councillor David Tate, Chair of Management Scrutiny Committee, and Councillors Miller and Walker. Helen Lancaster, Scrutiny Officer will provide verbal feedback at this meeting.

#### 3. Conference Programme

- 3.1 The title for the annual conference was Accountability, Transparency and Commissioning - Delivering for People and Places. The issue of the future role of scrutiny in light of significant Government reforms was a key theme throughout the conference, particularly in a landscape whereby potentially more services will be commissioned and contracted; and the need to ensure these arrangements are transparent, inclusive and accountable.
- 3.2 There were approximately 160 delegates in attendance at the conference, the majority of which represented local authorities and were a mix of scrutineers and officers.
- 3.3 The key note address was given by **Professor Vernon Bogdanor CBE**, Professor of Government at Oxford University. Other speakers included **Emer Coleman**, Director of Digital Projects, Greater London Authority; **Richard Wilson**, Founder, IZWE; **David Walker**, Contributing Editor, Guardian Public, The Guardian and **Helen Bailey**, Chief Executive, Local Partnerships.
- 3.4 Discussions throughout the day focused on;

- the impact of 'transparency' on the way that the public and their representatives hold services to account;
- places that are taking forward 'community-based budgets' and how jointly commissioned and funded services will be scrutinised;
- governance and accountability where civil society organisations such as charities, mutuals and social enterprises play more of a role in running services;
- how GP consortia, Health and Well-being Boards and the NHS Commissioning Board will impact on accountability of healthcare, social care and health improvement;
- the development of Local HealthWatch and the contribution it can make to accountable health and social care;
- the measurement of the value of services not just their cost; and
- skills that non-executives will need to develop in the new landscape.

#### **4. Good Scrutiny Awards 2011**

4.1 The Good Scrutiny awards took place after the Conference and were hosted by Baroness Sally Hamwee, House of Lords and CfPS Advisory Board member.

4.2 The categories for awards were;

- Community Influence
- Innovation
- Joint Working
- Non-Executive of the Year
- Raising the Profile
- Team of the Year; and
- Value for Money

4.3 The North East Health Scrutiny Joint Committee was very pleased to win the Joint Working award and the Overall Impact award for its major project involving all twelve councils in the North East reviewing the health inequalities suffered by ex-service people and their families. It was applauded by the judging panel for positively embracing joint working and tackling such a sensitive subject.

#### **5. Recommendation**

5.1 The Committee is asked to receive verbal feedback from the conference delegates.

#### **6. Background Papers**

Seminar Programme

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