

## CENTRE FOR PUBLIC SCRUTINY PARLIAMENTARY SEMINAR

### REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

#### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 For the Committee to note the additional delegate sent to the Centre for Public Scrutiny's Parliamentary Seminar held on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2012 and to receive feedback from both delegates on the events attended.

#### 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. Current Position

- 3.1 The Parliamentary Seminars aim to give elected members the opportunity to learn about parliamentary scrutiny and discuss what local and national scrutiny can learn from each other. The Seminars provide the opportunity to hear from a chair of a select committee and put questions directly to them. Seminars also include a "Questioning and chairing skills session" which explore the skills needed to evaluate evidence, understand some issues faced in scrutiny, and practice the select committee style of questioning skills.
- 3.2 The original request to attend the seminar held on 24 January in London was submitted to the Management Scrutiny Committee at its January 2012 meeting. Further to this original request and following discussions it was suggested by the Chair that the opportunity to attend any future Parliamentary Seminars be offered to the remaining committee membership. Further interest was received from Councillor Miller who attended the seminar session held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2012.
- 3.3 As with the previous request the CfPS charges a nominal fee of £40 +VAT to cover costs as well as associated travel costs to London.
- 3.4 Councillor Miller and Councillor Mordey will have both attended the Parliamentary Seminars by the time of the Management Scrutiny Committee meeting and will provide Members with verbal feedback of the seminars attended from their individual points of view.

**4. Recommendation**

That the Committee notes the attendance of Councillor Graeme Miller at the CfPS Parliamentary Seminar on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2012.

That the Committee note the comments and feedback from Councillor Mordey and Councillor Miller on the content and value of the Seminars attended.

**5. Background Papers**

Conference Papers

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