

REQUEST TO ATTEND SEMINAR – CENTRE FOR PUBLIC SCRUTINY PARLIAMENTARY SEMINAR

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 For the Committee to consider nominating two delegates to the Centre for Public Scrutiny's Parliamentary Seminar to be held on 7 January, 3 February and 31 March 2014.

2. Background

- 2.1 The council's 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 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. All sessions run from 11.00am – 4.00pm.
- 3.2 The Seminars will be held on 7 January, 3 February and 31 March 2014. The CfPS charges a nominal fee of £40 +VAT to cover costs. There will be associated travel costs to London however, previous delegates have indicated that these events offer excellent value for money as the speakers and practical training will be entirely free.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 It is suggested that the Committee considers the expressions of interest and agrees a nomination to attend the Seminar, to be funded from the budget of the Scrutiny Committee.

5. Background Papers Conference Papers