

PROSPERITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

14 JULY
2010

CENTRE FOR PUBLIC SCRUTINY 8TH 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) 8th Annual Conference that was held on 30 June and 1 July 2010.

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 At its last meeting, the Committee agreed to send a delegate to the CfPS Annual Scrutiny Conference held on Wednesday 30 June and Thursday 1 July 2010 at The Brewery, London. The Conference was attended by Councillor Dianne Snowdon who will provide verbal feedback at this meeting.

3. Conference Programme

- 3.1 The theme for the annual conference was future accountability and transparency in public services.

Key issues included were:

- (a) Regaining public trust;
 - (b) Tackling Inequalities; and
 - (c) Addressing how to sustain outcomes in hard financial times:
- 3.2 At the end of the conference, it was envisaged that delegates would have:-
- (a) Heard directly from the government of the day about their vision for accountability in public service delivery;
 - (b) Explored how public empowerment is becoming central to scrutiny and accountability across local government, police and the health service;

- (c) Explored how scrutiny can tackle today's issues- ensuring the public receive value for money in critical economic times;
- (d) Learnt about innovative techniques and best practice from experts across the public sector;
- (e) Met and shared ideas and experiences with colleagues facing the same challenges; and
- (f) Discovered what is on the horizon for the CfPS.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 The Committee is asked to receive verbal feedback from the conference delegate.

5. Background Papers

Seminar Programme

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