

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 a delegate to the Centre for Public Scrutiny's Parliamentary Seminar to be held on 24th January 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 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. **Appendix 1** of this report provides a draft programme for the event.
- 3.2 The Seminar will be held on 24 January in London and runs from 11.00 am to 4.00 pm. It will include opportunities to attend select committee meetings before or after the organised programme, subject to places being available in the audience of the committees.
- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 Places are extremely limited for each seminar on a first-come-first-served basis (prioritising authorities which were not able to attend the previous series).

4. Recommendation

It is suggested that the Committee nominates Councillor Michael Mordey to attend the Seminar, to be funded from the budget of the Management Scrutiny Committee.

5. Background Papers
Conference Papers

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