

Scrutiny and Community Leadership and Governance

Wednesday 29 November 2006

Venue: Birmingham

Convenor: ~~Colin~~ Colin Copus

Overview and scrutiny is a vital mechanism by which councils can pursue and develop their community leadership role. It provides councillors with a setting and a range of tools with which to engage and explore policy issues and problems, to develop new policy and to create a framework in which to ensure the good governance of the locality.

Overview and scrutiny can be the engine that drives the community governance process and enables councillors to reach beyond the confines of the council, into broader and richer governance networks, thus influencing the policies and activities of all those public and private agencies that impact on the well-being of local communities.

The seminar will explore the link between overview and scrutiny and community leadership and governance, set out how scrutiny can secure its place at the centre of the local governance network and examine how scrutiny can hold the executive and a range of other bodies to public account.

The seminar will consider:

- scrutiny and policy initiation and development
- scanning the community for policy problems
- holding the executive to account
- scrutiny and the local governance network
- accountability and external bodies
- scrutiny and regional and national governance

Dr Colin Copus is a senior lecturer in local politics at the Institute of Local Government Studies. He was one of the joint authors of the ODPM publication: *The Development of Overview and Scrutiny in Local Government*.

