

Chairing Scrutiny

23 June 2006

Wednesday 20 September 2006

RECEIVED

Venue: Birmingham

Convenor: Colin Copus

Chairing an overview and scrutiny committee, or any other overview and scrutiny event, is not like chairing an old style council committee. Nor is it like chairing a business meeting, or, for that matter chairing a meeting of a political party. Scrutiny chairs require an entirely new set of skills and expertise to meet the new setting that is an overview and scrutiny event and to meet the demands of those events. The seminar will explore the skill requirements of overview and scrutiny chairs and set out a practical plan for the development of those skills. It will also examine what scrutiny chairs need to do before, during and after scrutiny events. The seminar will consider:

- skill requirements and a practical plan for developing those skills
- planning, running and progressing a scrutiny event
- identifying sources of evidence
- encouraging investigation and evidence collection and assessment
- stimulating deliberation and exploration
- working with people outside the council
- the political process of a scrutiny event
- the party political dimension

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*.



* In order to process your application we require a VAT No. or Charity Reg. No.