

Feedback on training 14.10.05

Organisers: WMLGA Overview and Scrutiny Network

Session Title: The relationship between Scrutiny and the Executive

Purpose of the event:

- To examine the relationship between Scrutiny and the Executive.
- Opportunity to network with colleagues in the region.
- To examine ways of breaking down the barriers between Scrutiny and the Executive to enable effective scrutiny to take place.
- Hear the perspective of an Executive member and Scrutiny chair from same local authority and how to develop and maintain a positive relationship with scrutiny.

Thoughts and learning:

The session was facilitated by David McGrath who has, and continues, to work with us in Walsall and is a very effective facilitator.

During the session the key factors influencing or determining relationships were examined and in groups we discussed the relationship between scrutiny and the Executive and how barriers with the Executive could be broken down. Best practice examples in ways of developing effective working relationships were presented by David McGrath, including Walsall's 'joint vision engineering' and 'Vision 2008'.

During group discussions our budget consultation and allocation of Chair and Vice Chair of scrutiny panels was positively acknowledged by others and I felt our scrutiny process was on par with neighbouring authorities.

The session also gave the opportunity to learn how others promote scrutiny and engage the public and several leaflets produced by Stoke on Trent were available and have been brought back for learning.

On the whole the event was very useful as provided the opportunity to share learning with others and to see issues from different perspectives, was well facilitated and value for money