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Wednesday 15th October 2008, London

# Reshaping Overview & Scrutiny

Strengthening local engagement and partnership outcomes through dynamic and responsive overview and scrutiny

# **Expert speakers include:**

**Councillor Len Clark,** Chair – Adults & Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee **Birmingham City Council,** *CfPS Scrutiny Chair of the Year 2008* 

Gareth Wall, Research & Information Adviser, Centre for Public Scrutiny

Martin Day, Performance & Scrutiny Manager, Southampton City Council

Nigel Roberts, Director of Law & Administration, Gloucestershire County Council

Shazad Sarwar, Independent Member, Lancashire Police Authority

# PLUS! Pre-Conference Workshop: THE FUNDAMENTALS OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

An essential introductory seminar to the role, process and impact of public scrutiny Tuesday 14th October 2008, 13:30 – 16:30, Central London

Conference – Wednesday 15th October 2008, London

# Reshaping Overview & Scrutiny

Strengthening local engagement and partnership outcomes through dynamic and responsive overview and scrutiny

Local devolution, community involvement and partnership working present you with enormous challenges in maintaining effective scrutiny in your local area. With the raft of policy changes and the practical complexities of local governance, are you best equipped to respond to the growing role and remit of overview and scrutiny?

**LGC** has designed a comprehensive event offering you guidance on the key policies and practice needed to maintain an effective overview and scrutiny function. In the challenging context within which you work, it is essential to stay informed and share best practice to manage the changing demands of your role.

# Strengthen your local scrutiny arrangements to meet future challenges and outcomes

Benefit from expertise, guidance and discussion on key areas including:

- Outlining the impact of government policy: Responding to guidance to build robust future scrutiny
- CAA: Understanding scrutiny's contribution to future performance assessment and improvement
- LAAs: Improving performance through an area and partnership-based approach to scrutiny
- Strengthening external scrutiny and improving engagement with stakeholders
- Equipping scrutiny to meet the challenges of future public accountability and engagement

Sessions have been designed to offer you the opportunity to specialise in specific elements of scrutiny – from health to regional scrutiny or from the perspective of a two-tier or unitary authority.

Overview and scrutiny is an increasingly important tool to guarantee strong and effective management of your local area. Gain a clear sense of the outcomes now needed from public scrutiny, as well as some excellent examples of best practice working.

At this critical stage, don't miss the opportunity to engage with your peers, partners and political representatives to shape improved future practice and potential for overview and scrutiny.

# PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

Tuesday 14th October 2008, London

# The Fundamentals of Overview & Scrutiny

An essential introductory seminar to the role, process and impact of public scrutiny

### WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

13:30	Chair's introduction and
	opening remarks

# 13:45 What is overview and scrutiny?

- Theory accountability
- Why is it important?
- Process including Councillor Call for Action (CCfA)
- Terminology

Alison Barrett, Scrutiny Manager & Adam Hadley, Senior Scrutiny Policy Officer, Sandwell MBC

# 14:15 Who contributes what to the scrutiny process?

- Officers
- Members
- Partner agencies

Cllr Robin Millar, Chairman of Overview & Scrutiny Committee

### **Forest Heath District Council**

# 14:45 Question and answer session

15:00 Refreshments

### 15:15 What is the impact?

- Improved performance and outcomes for your local area
- Better services and engagement with the community
- Strengthened partnership working

# 15:45 What is the future role of scrutiny?

- Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA)
- Local Area Agreements (LAA)
- Local Strategic Partnerships (LSP)
- Regional Reform (Sub-National Review, Multi-Area Agreements, Regional Development Agencies)
- The Empowerment Agenda

  Gareth Wall

Research and Information Adviser Centre for Public Scrutiny

# 16:15 Question and answer session

16:30 Chair's closing summary and seminar ends

# Who should attend?

All those across the public sector who work in:

- Senior Management Team including Councillors
- Overview, Scrutiny & Public Accountability
- Policy, Strategy & Performance
- Legal & Democratic Services
- Strategic & Area Partnerships
- Corporate Services & Improvement

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# 09:00 Registration and refreshments

# 09:50 Chair's opening remarks

**Clir Len Clark** 

Chair – Adults & Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee **Birmingham City Council** 

CfPS Scrutiny Chair of the Year 2008

# 10:00 **KEYNOTE SPEECH**

# Outlining the impact of government policy on overview and scrutiny: Responding to guidance to build robust future scrutiny

- CCfA: Identifying and implementing changes to policy, procedures and council constitutions in differently tiered authorities
- Empowerment White Paper: Preparing for the impact of community involvement and engagement duties on future scrutiny arrangements
- Sub-National Review: What is the role for scrutiny between local and regional agencies? How will accountability best be achieved?
- Shaping effective future scrutiny arrangements for your area: Tying policies together to identify clear priorities and requirements
- Understanding the timelines for guidance and implementation

# 10:25 Question and answer session

# 10:35 CAA and LAAs: Improving performance through an area and partnership-based approach to scrutiny

- LAA & LSP scrutiny: Understanding how scrutiny can effectively engage with partnership processes and support their outcomes
- Redesigning your committees to scrutinise partnerships in line with local priorities
- Using the LSP Duty to Co-operate to leverage wider involvement in scrutiny
- How CAA will draw on different components of O&S:
   Joining up scrutiny processes and outputs to support future performance assessments
- Joining up performance improvement: Using scrutiny committee findings to shape future policy and practice

Martin Day, Performance and Scrutiny Manager Southampton City Council

# 11:00 Question and answer session

# 11:10 Morning refreshments

# 11:40 PEER DISCUSSION

Strengthening external scrutiny and improving engagement with stakeholders: Ensuring accountable local governance

CASE STUDY: Engaging communities through scrutiny: Investor in policing campaign

Shazad Sarwar, Independent Member

**Lancashire Police Authority** 

# Consolidate the morning's learning and identify best practice strategies and solutions to improving external scrutiny.

Discuss and compare your approaches to engagement then feed back your top three recommendations to improve external scrutiny working.

# 12:40 Lunch

# 13:40 Equipping scrutiny to meet the challenges of future public accountability and engagement

- Preparing for the growing remit of scrutiny and its potential impact on the future policy and performance of your area
- Demonstrating the benefits and achievements of scrutiny in supporting local outcomes
- Securing buy-in from a range of stakeholders to cement future partnerships and tackle local governance
- Using effective training and communication to raise the profile and awareness of the need for greater local scrutiny
   Gareth Wall, Research and Information Adviser
   Centre for Public Scrutiny

### 14:00 Question and answer session

# 14:05 TAILORED DISCUSSION

# Enhancing scrutiny arrangements in your area to support the delivery of national and local outcomes

An opportunity to focus on the detail of translating policy and partnership working in the specific context of your authority. Choose from one of the following streams to share experiences with your peers and respond to specific challenges associated with:

### A - Two-tier and district authorities

Nigel Roberts, Director of Law and Administration Cllr Rob Garnham, Chairman of Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee

**Gloucestershire County Council** 

# B - Unitary, metropolitan and borough authorities

Karen Dainty, Principal Scrutiny Support Officer Salford City Council Penny Bunker, Scrutiny and Governance Manager

Kirklees Metropolitan Council

- Developing approaches to CCfA in your area
- Effectively co-ordinating and managing scrutiny with other authorities and agencies to avoid duplication and add value
- Determining who should scrutinise which partnership at what level
- New techniques and training for holding the executive to account
- Recommendations on mechanisms for holding external agencies to account

# 14:45 Afternoon refreshments

# 15:15 INTERACTIVE CASE STUDY LEARNING

Case studies highlighting the latest thinking and best practice in public sector overview and scrutiny.

Learn in detail about one of the following examples of collaborative scrutiny structures in a specific context:

# A – LINks and Health Scrutiny

Representative from Coventry City Council

# B - Joint authority and regional scrutiny

Tom Bolton, Senior Scrutiny Officer Durham County Council

# 16:00 Conference ends



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# **Reshaping Overview & Scrutiny**

Conference - Wednesday 15th October 2008, London Half-Day Workshop - Tuesday 14th October 2008, London

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