

Enhancing Local Democracy

Date and Time	Venue	Cost	Contact
28 Jun 2007 00:00	LSE, Bankside House, Southbank, London	£190 + VAT	Karen Andrews

Content

This is a one-day event aimed at both councillors and officers. The context is the Government's 2006 White Paper 'Strong and Prosperous Communities' and the 2007 Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill. The aim of the conference is to look at the new and evolving roles for councillors and those officers who work alongside them. It builds on the event run last July by South East Employers for Democratic Services Officers.

The morning will comprise presentations from keynote speakers. The afternoon will offer a choice of workshops, including practical skills sessions and local authority case studies.

Who should attend

This event will appeal to elected members, key officers supporting the democratic function and staff from partner agencies, including: Elected Members

Democratic Services Officers

Overview and Scrutiny Officers

Policy & Strategy Officers

LAA Lead Members/Officers

LSP Managers/Coordinators/Officers

Sessions to Include

Member as Community Leader – New Ways of Working for Members and Officers

The Local Government White Paper stressed the need for councillors to have closer connections to communities and recognised the vital role of local community groups in involving residents in decision-making. This will require an improvement in members' and officer's awareness of modern techniques of citizen engagement and participation, and in the type of support officers provide for their elected members.

The Community Call for Action – What Will This Look Like?

With the CCfA councillors are set to become further empowered to deal with constituency issues at a local level but how will this work in practice? We hear from authorities who have been piloting schemes around this new power.

Local Partners, Local Accountability - How to Achieve Effective Scrutiny

As well as examining scrutiny and its links to a councillor's ward and neighbourhood role, there will also be a session on the new external scrutiny powers and their role in the local authority's effective implementation of the Local Area Agreement.