

The Councillor, the Community Call for Action and the Role of Overview and Scrutiny

16 May 2007

Convenor: Colin Copus

Venue: Birmingham

The Community Call for Action process builds on, and is designed to strengthen, the councillor's role as a community champion and local political representative. Moreover, the CCfA process would provide councillors with a mechanism to challenge, hold to account and integrate with local communities a range of public bodies and even private concerns.

The day-long seminar is designed for new and long-serving councillors alike and is aimed at developing new, and strengthening existing, political skills for councillors. The seminar will explore the following areas:

- the councillor as a local representative
 - representing communities of place and interest
 - pastoral care for the patch and individuals
 - securing resources for local communities
 - integrating community opinion into council policy
- the councillor and the Community Call for Action
 - working with overview and scrutiny
 - overview and scrutiny as a community resource
- the role of the party (or independent) group
 - working with party colleagues on community issues
 - party loyalty or community opinion: reconciling differing views

The seminar will be convened by Dr Colin Copus , who has recently published two major books on local party politics: *Leading the Localities: Executive Mayors in English Local Governance* and *Party Politics and Local Government*, both published by Manchester University Press.

Programme

9.30	Registration and refreshments
10.00	Introduction
10.15	The developing role of the councillor in the community (with group discussion exercise)
11.15	Refreshments
11.30	The community call for action – developing a working model with overview and scrutiny (with group discussion exercise)
12.30	Lunch
1.30	Community representation and the role of the group (with group discussion exercise)
2.30	Community representation and policy development
3.30	Refreshments
3.45	Round table discussion
4.45	Close

FEE

- £299 (VAT exempt) for advance payment with booking form
- £350 (VAT exempt) for payment via an invoice after the event

Cheques should be made payable to the University of Birmingham and forwarded to the Seminar Administrator

If you require any further information please contact Fay Wilson on 0121 414 4999 or email f.e.wilson@bham.ac.uk