

**THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY****5 June 2007****Convenor: Colin Copus****Venue: Birmingham**

Overview and scrutiny is potentially the most exciting and influential set of processes for members and officers and provides members with opportunities to initiate, develop and direct the policy of the council. Yet, to achieve this potential, an entirely new set of principles and approaches are required to that necessary when working under the old committee system.

The seminar explores how overview and scrutiny provides members with a powerful policy role and with the tools necessary to influence and direct the activities of the council – as well as the exciting potential for scrutiny of the activities of a range of public and private sector agencies and bodies.

The seminar is run by Dr Colin Copus, one of the co-authors of the ODPM report *The Development of Overview and Scrutiny in Local Government*.

**Programme Objectives**

- Consider ways to develop an effective overview and scrutiny process
- Explore various ways of conducting overview and scrutiny reviews
- Provide a framework for good working relationships between the executive and overview and scrutiny

The seminar aims to equip Members and Officers with the skills necessary to develop and achieve the full potential offered by overview and scrutiny.

**Programme**

09.45	Coffee and registration
10.00	Introductions
10.10	Overview and Scrutiny: New Principles and Approaches to Political Decision-Making (to include a group discussion exercise)
11.15	Refreshments
11.30	Developing Community Leadership through Overview and Scrutiny: Conducting External Reviews (to include a group discussion exercise)
12.45	Lunch
13.45	Ensuring a Good Working Relationship with the Executive (to include group discussion exercise)
15.00	Refreshments
15.15	Developing a work programme for Overview and Scrutiny
16.15	Close of seminar

**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 Amanda Williams: telephone 0121 414 7407 or email [a.a.williams@ham.ac.uk](mailto:a.a.williams@ham.ac.uk)