

# Scrutiny and the New Legislation - 24 April 2008

**Speakers:** Andrew Whitehead, Jo Dungey, Derek Bishop, Andrew Coulson

**Venue:** Birmingham

## Context

New legislation - the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, the Police and Justice Act 2006 and developments in health scrutiny - is radically changing the shape of local government scrutiny.

## Seminar overview

This seminar will focus on three areas which are central to this legislation:

1. **Increasing the status of Overview and Scrutiny** which will be achieved partly by the new Act but probably even more by the associated regulations. We are expecting regulations to be out for consultation shortly.
2. **Local Area Agreements (LAAs)**, involving all the councils in the area, the Voluntary and Community Sector, NHS trusts, Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships, and a wide range of bodies involved in place-shaping and economic development. Overview and Scrutiny Committees will have new powers and responsibilities to hold these to account - in a radical extension of external and health scrutiny - though there will not be a requirement to have an LAA budget, or special financial arrangements as part of the LAA.
3. **External and Health Scrutiny:** The new Act extends the powers of local authorities to scrutinise external agencies. How will this work in practice, and what teeth will there be? It also includes the provisions for LINKS, Local Improvement Networks, which will further add to the workloads of health scrutiny committees.

## Seminar leaders

These topics will be addressed by extremely well-informed speakers: A senior civil servant, a speaker from the LGA and an experienced local government scrutiny officer. They will be discussed in small groups, leading to relevant conclusions and identification of actions needed now to make a success of these new developments.

## Programme

9.30	Registration and coffee
10.15	'Introduction: From the Local Government White Paper, to Act, Regulations and Guidance' <i>Andrew Coulson, INLOGOV</i>
10.45	'Increasing the Status and Standing of Overview and Scrutiny' <i>Andrew Whitehead, Department of Communities and Local Government</i>
11.30	Discussion
11.45	Refreshments
12.00	'The Scrutiny of Local Area Agreements' <i>Jo Dungey, Local Government Association</i>
12.30	Discussion
1.00	Lunch
2.00	Task Based Working Groups: 'What Local Government Scrutiny Needs from the New Legislation'
2.30	Group Feedback - Key Points

3.00	'The Future of Health and External Scrutiny' <i>Derek Bishop, Chair of the County and Unitary Scrutiny Officers' Network</i>
3.30	Discussion
4.00	Refreshments and Close

### **Intended audience**

This seminar will be equally attractive to members and officers involved in Overview and Scrutiny, and to Executive members and senior policy officers. It will assist officers who are tasked with drafting responses to the consultation, as well as scrutiny officers and members preparing to implement the new legislation.

### **Fee and booking**

- £299 (VAT exempt) prepayment
- £350 (VAT exempt) payment via an invoice
- £175 (VAT exempt) for the voluntary sector

Please make cheques payable to 'University of Birmingham' and send them to the Seminar Administrator.

**[You can make a provisional booking through our online booking form.](#)**

### **Enquiries**

For further information, contact Fay Wilson, the Seminar Administrator: 0121 414 4999 or **[f.e.wilson@bham.ac.uk](mailto:f.e.wilson@bham.ac.uk)**

**INLOGOV can also offer a version of this seminar as an in-authority course tailored to suit your needs.**

For more information, contact Sue Platt: 0121 414 5002 or **[s.p.platt@bham.ac.uk](mailto:s.p.platt@bham.ac.uk)**