



Overview and Scrutiny Conference

RECOMMENDATION

1. To approve Derby's contribution of £500 towards the cost of organising a conference focusing on the practical aspects of overview and scrutiny.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Scrutiny Officer Network has been established to share good practice and provide support to officers involved in overview and scrutiny. The Network has the backing of the Leaders and Chief Executives of local authorities in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire to further partnership working. OSCers from Derby play an active role in the Network whose membership includes 19 local authorities.
- 2.2 The process for conducting effective scrutiny is continuously reviewed and it is not always easy to find suitable training for practitioners to support this process. The Officer Network has therefore agreed to organise a conference that focuses on practical rather theoretical aspects of overview and scrutiny. The main aims of the event will be to:
 - Develop the skills and knowledge of Scrutiny Members & Officers
 - raise the profile of Scrutiny within the region and to promote the Officer Network
 - Showcase achievements of effective scrutiny from all across the region
 - Enable elected members and officers from the region to meet other colleagues and share ideas and experiences
- 2.3 The event will be held on 29 September at the Ringwood Hall, Brimington, near Chesterfield, starting at 10 am and finish around 3.30 pm. The event will cater for approximately 100 delegates. Although the final programme is yet to be finalised, topics suggested for the event include:
 - A demonstration of Derby's Interactive Project Planning tool
 - Budget scrutiny
 - Skills required for effective Scrutiny
 - Relationships in the democratic environment
 - Community engagement

- 2.4 Authorities in the Network are asked to make a contribution of £500 and underwrite the cost of organising the event, which include hire of the venue, catering, external speakers and administration. In return the contributing authorities will be offered 5 free places. Further places would also be available if required at a charge.
- 2.5 The Commission is asked to approve Derby's contribution of £500 to towards the cost of the event. This expenditure will be contained within the existing overview and scrutiny budgets.

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Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. The Commission is asked to authorise a contribution of £500 towards the cost of the organising overview and scrutiny conference which in return will provide five free places. The expenditure can be contained in the Overview and Scrutiny budgets.

Legal

2. None.

Personnel

3. None.

Equalities impact

4. Overview and scrutiny contributes to the improvements in services of all the residents.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

5. The report supports the Corporate Objectives and Priorities for Change through our services and in partnership with others.