



## SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

20 April 2006

Report of the Corporate Director, Corporate and Adult Social Services  
and Deputy Chief Executive

### Second Annual Overview and Scrutiny Conference

#### RECOMMENDATION

1. To approve Derby's contribution of £500 towards the cost of organising the second annual conference on overview and scrutiny by Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Scrutiny Officer Network.

#### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Scrutiny Officer Network shares good practice and provides support to officers involved in the overview and scrutiny process. The Officer Network organised the 'Scrutiny in Practice' conference last year which was attended by a total of 86 delegates from Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire local authorities including ten from Derby City Council. Feedback from the delegates showed that the event was viewed as a great success by members who also found the opportunity to network and share experiences with other colleagues extremely useful.
- 2.2 The Network is seeking to build on the success of last year's event and is organising the second annual conference on 26 September 2006 at the same venue, Ringwood Hall, Chesterfield. This year's event aims to tackle some of the issues such as relationships, diplomacy and communication that are common to all overview and scrutiny committees and will use the innovative format of forum theatre to get the message across. This new approach will enable delegates to observe role play, challenge the different techniques used in scrutiny, and make necessary changes to the process during the presentations.
- 2.3 For this event the Network will be working with Royal Academy for Dramatic Art (RADA). RADA has nearly five years experience of using this approach and has worked with Maidstone BC, Milton Keynes Council and the IDeA/LGA.
- 2.4 One of the key contributors to the success of last year's Network conference was the offer by each of the Network authorities to underwrite the cost of organising the event by £500 in return for five free places. This enabled the organising team to concentrate on the administrative aspects of the event without having to worry about the

finances. The actual cost for the event was considerably lower and in Derby we eventually paid £405 for the nine delegates who attended. This we consider represented excellent value for money.

- 2.5 The organisers wish to adopt the same process this year and we are again asking authorities in the Network to make a contribution of £500. This will underwrite the cost of organising the event and will cover the hire of the venue, catering, external speakers and administration. In return for their contribution authorities will again be offered 5 free places with opportunity to acquire further places at a charge if required.
- 2.6 The Commission is therefore asked to approve Derby's contribution of £500 towards the cost of this event. This expenditure will be contained within overview and scrutiny budgets.

<b>For more information contact:</b>	Mahroof Hussain 01332 255597 e-mail <a href="mailto:mahroof.hussain@derby.gov.uk">mahroof.hussain@derby.gov.uk</a>
<b>Background papers:</b>	None
<b>List of appendices:</b>	Appendix 1 – Implications

<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>
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**Financial**

1. The Commission is asked to authorise a contribution of £500 towards the cost of the organising overview and scrutiny conference and will in return receive 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 overview and scrutiny process supports all corporate priorities and key outcomes approved by the Council on 1 March 2006.