

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

13 DECEMBER 2016

SCRUTINY TRAINING

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To provide information in respect of Scrutiny Training which has been organised for all Members, but in particular for Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board (OSB).

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is **RECOMMENDED** that Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board note the dates of the Scrutiny Training and that Members be encouraged to make every effort to attend all sessions.

BACKGROUND

2. The Member Development Policy for 2016/2017 was submitted to the Constitution and Members' Development Committee on 11 November 2016. The Policy included a copy of the Member Development Programme for 2016/17.
3. A key new element to the proposed new approach is the introduction of a competency skills framework (based on the Local Government Association's 'Political Skills Framework') which would help identify individual development needs around the following competencies:
 - local leadership;
 - partnership working;
 - communication skills ;
 - political understanding
 - scrutiny challenge; and
 - regulating and monitoring.
4. In order to further develop the above competencies, as part of the Member Development Programme, it had been identified that training in respect of Chairing Skills was required. In accordance with the above the following training sessions have been scheduled:

Tuesday, 17 January 2017:

Seminar 1: 10am - 12 noon 'Best Practice in Scrutiny'

Seminar 2: 1 - 3pm 'Effective Committee Meeting Skills in Scrutiny'

Thursday 19th January 2017:

Seminar 1: 10 – 12 noon 'Chairing Skills'

5. The **Best Practice in Scrutiny** will look at how the potential for scrutiny as a member led, improvement planning tool can be unlocked to make a bigger (tangible) difference (with case studies). This answers the key question: '**what** should value adding scrutiny look like in Middlesbrough' in key areas of policy and challenge within the authority and communities of Middlesbrough.
6. The '**Effective Committee Meeting Skills in Scrutiny**' focuses on how best to use time in scrutiny meetings (preparation/pre-meetings) and how best to ask questions. It also covers etiquette whilst dealing with witnesses or officers (whilst maintaining polite assertiveness and probing strategies) and listening skills.
7. The '**Chairing Skills**' will focus on how to ensure that Scrutiny meetings are productive and are managed effectively and equitably.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

8. There were no background papers used in the preparation of this report.

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