

# **Scrutiny One Step Beyond**

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November**  
**Plymouth City Council**

This one day conference is aimed at encouraging the effective development of the scrutiny process. It will provide opportunities to challenge what delegates think about scrutiny and stimulate new thinking. Delegates will have the opportunity to receive up to date information on legislation and discover new ways of working.

We hope that delegates will leave this event with new motivation, vigour and ideas to take Scrutiny a step further within their council.

Places on the event are free, and the day will start at 9.30 for 10.00 and end by 5.00.

## **Keynote Speakers**

Throughout the day our three keynote speakers will be sharing their experiences and expertise and providing a new perspective on overview and scrutiny.

### **Frances Taylor B.A. Hons. French (Birmingham) and M.B.A Public Services (Birmingham) with Distinction**

Frances is an expert facilitator and presenter having worked for a variety of organisations within the public and private sector. Frances worked at INLOGOV with a wide range of local authorities as researcher, consultant and facilitator on the new political management arrangements specialising in the Overview and Scrutiny function. She was responsible for introducing the highly acclaimed programme "Successful Scrutiny". In addition to this Frances was Head of Scrutiny at Cumbria County Council.

### **Ann Reeder BA (Hons), Dip RSA, Cert Open University Business School**

Ann is currently the director of a consultancy, working across the spectrum of local government authorities and political control. She has a wealth of experience in the field of Scrutiny and has worked with numerous authorities supporting this function. Additionally she has spoken at national conferences on subjects such as strengthening arrangements for Scrutiny, partnership working and the local area agreement. Ann has completed two terms as an elected Member for the London Borough of Brent.

### **David McGrath BA(Hons) Chartered Fellow IPD**

David is an active, lively and interactive speaker who has been working as a trainer, researcher and consultant to Local Authorities since 1994. David has a B.A.(Hons) in Politics and History and is a former Birmingham City Councillor. He has worked with many Councils in the Scrutiny field and will be sharing some of his expertise with us for this event

## **PROGRAMME**

### Morning

The morning will allow you to meet each of our keynote speakers as they introduce the following themes.

- Why are we here – Exploring how scrutiny links to the purpose of being a councillor.
- Four principles of effective Scrutiny - working in small groups to explore the knowledge and understanding of scrutiny
- Putting initiatives into practice – how to keep on top of the latest requirements.

### Afternoon

Delegates are asked to select two of the three workshops to attend during the afternoon session. The day will be rounded off by an opportunity for delegates to consider the actions which they would like to take back to their authorities.

#### **Workshop 1 - Raising the bar in Overview and Scrutiny with David**

##### **McGrath**

This workshop will explore how to transform the overview role, enabling it to become a dynamic improvement planning arm of the Council focused on making a difference in critical policy and service areas. Delegates will have the opportunity to discover through case studies and by exploring key tools and techniques how to achieve this for their own authorities.

#### **Workshop 2 – Scrutiny of place and not of council with Ann Reeder**

This workshop will allow reflections on place shaping and total place, looking at the impact on and challenges for Scrutiny. In discussion, we will look specifically at subjects such as shaping services, working in partnership, undertaking comprehensive area assessment, consulting stakeholders, engaging councillors as community leaders, and improving the decision making process and outcomes for residents.

#### **Workshop 3 – Developing skills for effective Scrutiny with Frances Taylor**

This workshop will focus on prioritising Scrutiny review topics and developing a questioning strategy. The session will look at the skills of questioning and will allow opportunities to practice this. If time allows the group will also look at how to consult, gather and analyse information to make reasoned decisions.

**To book your place please complete and return the booking form.**