

## Overview and Scrutiny Away Day

Governance and Scrutiny are essential for the successful working of any organisation and decisions are better made when they are open to challenge and involve others. In order to be successful Overview and Scrutiny needs to create a culture which supports good governance, raises governance standards, responds to challenges and risks and provides innovative solutions.

For a number of years the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has organised an Away Day to discuss how they can improve the role of the committee, support good governance and learn key skills to better understand and support the Council in the democratic process.

In previous years the Committee has received training from both internal and external trainers and helped to deliver a number of projects following discussions at their Away Day. These have been around;

- LGA Peer Challenge
- Corporate Plan
- Public Engagement
- Agenda Setting
- Officer Resources
- Training and Experience
- Process
- Processing recommendations/effectiveness
- Communications
- Panel Structure
- Behaviours
- Working with the Cabinet
- Skills and approach to scrutiny

The Away Day has also offered the opportunity for the committee to discuss and develop their work programme.

The suggestion for this year's Away Day is to hold this on a Saturday morning in July as we did last year. We have been in contact with the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny and can offer a session following on from last year's looking at approaches to council finance, questioning strategies and scrutiny superpowers, how scrutiny has impact and influence. Ian Parry (who did the training last year) is happy to deliver this training and has indicated that Saturday 23 July would be suitable to him, however this is open for discussion.

The agenda for the day will be compiled after considering all suggestions and input from members. It is suggested that the day comprises as follows;

Breakfast

Welcome and introduction from the Chairman

Discussions and networking

Training from the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny

Lunch

Work programme development discussion

Members are requested to consider areas or topics they would like to receive training on.