



Proposal
February 2022

Supporting scrutiny member development

Introduction

Overview and scrutiny to plays an essential role in policy shaping, holding the executive decision-makers to account and reviewing issues of importance to local communities. To do this the scrutiny function and members need to develop a shared understanding on the role and capability of the scrutiny function; to be strong on prioritisation, work programming and the quality of scrutiny activities in measuring impact.

Development session objectives

- To give scrutiny members an increased understanding of the role and potential impact of scrutiny
- To agree a shared understanding of the role of scrutiny
- To understand how scrutiny can have significant impact in supporting performance
- To explore how scrutiny can better add value to policy shaping and practice in the future
- To support members to gain specific skills in essential aspects of scrutiny
- How scrutiny works collaboratively and constructively with Executive and Corporate officers.

Session outline

To provide members with a clear understanding of their role in scrutiny:

- Latest guidance and good practice (MHCLG & CfGS)
- Support members to increase their understanding and experience as effective and confident scrutiny practitioners
- To help improve individual member skills in the basic principles of scrutiny
- To give scrutiny members an increased understanding of the role and potential impact of scrutiny
- Scrutiny influences and how to use them
- Importance of relationships, behaviours and communication (culture aspects)
- To understand how scrutiny can have significant impact in supporting performance
- To explore how scrutiny can better add value to policy and practice in the future
- To ensure the focus of overview and scrutiny and its work programme is balanced and effective – the importance of developing a work programme that is aligned to council priorities

The session will also provide an overview of:

- How questioning fits in to the landscape of scrutiny
- Personal preparation and research
- Effective approaches to questioning
- Developing confidence to use questioning to achieve greater insight and impact
- Setting scrutiny objectives
- How to link questioning to scrutiny's objectives
- Developing themes and narrative – key lines of enquiry
- Question types and techniques
- Listening, sharing and reflecting

Delivery

This will be a 1.5-2hr in person workshop style session.

Cost £800.00 + vat

About CfGS and delivery

CfGS is the leading national body promoting and supporting excellence in governance and scrutiny. Its work has a strong track record of influencing policy and practice nationally and locally. CfGS is respected and trusted across the public sector to provide independent and impartial advice.

CfGS is an independent national charity founded by the Local Government Association [LGA], Local Government Information Unit [LGIU] and Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountants [CIPFA]. Its governance board is chaired by Lord Bob Kerslake.

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