


# the leadership academy

focused programmes:

**overview and scrutiny chairs programme**

**overview and scrutiny plus**

**confidence and ambition – regional overview and scrutiny programme**



'Excellence in overview and scrutiny goes hand in hand with effective leadership for scrutiny. This innovative course equips chairs to succeed in this most challenging of all leadership roles in local government.'

Dr Stephanie Snape,  
Local Government Centre,  
Warwick University

The political leadership of an authority does not rest solely with the executive – or policy committees in fourth option councils. Leadership for overview and scrutiny is just as important. The IDeA now offers three choices for councillors involved in scrutiny seeking to hone their skills and acquire new insights into their roles and responsibilities.

1. **overview and scrutiny chairs programme** 16–17 July 2007
2. **overview and scrutiny plus** 09–10 October and 29 November 2007
3. **regional scrutiny programme** to be arranged to suit regions

Overview and scrutiny is proving to be an effective vehicle for innovation, improvement and challenge in local government. Research and practice have clearly demonstrated the importance of effective and committed chairs and vice chairs to the positive development of overview and scrutiny in local authorities.

Put simply, successful chairing and leadership of scrutiny can dramatically improve its impact and outcomes.

### **overview and scrutiny chairs programme**

This innovative, focused Leadership Academy programme for overview and scrutiny chairs and other leading councillors has been framed around seven key challenges facing overview and scrutiny. It has been designed and is delivered by Dr Stephanie Snape of the Local Government Centre, Warwick University; and Mark Palmer of South East Employers, both of whom have been involved in the development of overview and scrutiny since its inception.

#### **the challenges:**

- providing effective leadership
- developing successful influencing strategies
- relating to the Cabinet
- engaging in the improvement agenda
- involving public and partners
- capturing the added value of overview and scrutiny
- developing a balanced role profile.

The programme features interactive presentations, case studies, group discussion, action learning sets, good practice examples and individual leadership challenges.

#### **it will enable participants to:**

- analyse the challenges and potential surrounding the leadership role for scrutiny
- understand their own personal leadership style and how to apply different leadership styles to the overview and scrutiny role
- develop successful influencing strategies for use within the council and the community
- construct a balanced role profile and measure the added value of overview and scrutiny.

#### **who is it for?**

- chairs and vice chairs of overview and scrutiny committees or panels
- chairs and vice chairs of time limited task and finish working groups for overview and scrutiny
- prospective chair and vice chairs of overview and scrutiny
- spokespeople for overview and scrutiny.

#### **programme dates**

programme 9  
16–17 July 2007  
Warwick Conference Centre,  
Coventry

#### **fees**

The programme is a two-day residential course and the fee per delegate is £500 plus VAT. This includes accommodation, tuition, meals and refreshments, and all materials for the programme.

## overview and scrutiny plus

The IDeA has commissioned this three-day Leadership Academy focused programme from INLOGOV, the Institute of Local Government Studies, with the aim of developing scrutiny members' leadership skills in a dynamic and challenging way.

Participants will develop their leadership skills in chairing, scoping scrutiny investigations, questioning, and weighing evidence.

They will also use the technique of Impact Groups – working in small teams to assess how the ideas they have encountered during the programme have affected their thinking and leadership styles.

This will take place a few weeks after the initial two programme days.

The programme will be of particular benefit to scrutiny members seeking to make improvements to the way overview and scrutiny is conducted in their council.

### programme dates

9-10 October and 29 November 2007.

### venue

Warwick Conference Centre, Coventry.

### fees

Fees are £600, which includes accommodation, tuition, meals and refreshments and all materials for the programme.

## confidence and ambition

This new, regional overview and scrutiny programme from the IDeA and the Centre for Public Scrutiny is aimed at scrutiny members who want to develop their skills in driving overview and scrutiny in their area, influencing their councils and partner organisations, and calling them to account on behalf of their communities.

The 2006 local government White Paper and the Health Bill offer new opportunities and challenges to overview and scrutiny, especially when it comes to scrutinising partners in Local Area Agreements.

Jessica Crowe, Director of the CfPS, says: 'There are also political sensitivities in challenging partners and working across council boundaries to understand and influence the 'big picture' issues facing communities.

'Big issues such as large-scale housing developments, a new out-of-town shopping or commercial centre, wind farms, the waste disposal and recycling challenge, attracting new business into the area, reducing health inequalities across a region, all require joined-up partnership working by the council as a whole - and joined-up working by scrutiny.'

Regional improvement partnerships and centres of excellence, regional scrutiny networks and others, such as a county and districts, are encouraged to book for the Academy in their region.

Dates, locations and programmes will be arranged to suit each region. Programmes will include an introduction to key leadership skills from Andy Holder Associates, an emphasis on working in a political context, led by the Political Skills Forum, and a focus on action learning that is responsive to participants' needs.

### fees

Fees vary according to requirements.

To register your interest or to obtain registration forms for all Leadership Academy programmes please contact [grace.collins@idea.gov.uk](mailto:grace.collins@idea.gov.uk) or call 020 7296 6563.

For more information about overview and scrutiny visit [www.cfps.org.uk](http://www.cfps.org.uk).



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