

Report of	Meeting	Date
Chief Executive	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	10 April 2014

## OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY TRAINING PROPOSAL

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To put forward a proposal for providing a Member training workshop for overview and scrutiny.

### RECOMMENDATION(S)

- Members views are requested on the training proposal set out in paragraphs 5 and 6 below.

Confidential report Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No

### CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Involving residents in improving their local area and equality of access for all		A strong local economy	
Clean, safe and healthy communities		An ambitious council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area	X

### BACKGROUND

- The Council has not undertaken any training on overview and scrutiny for a number of years. There has been a number of one off training opportunities through other Councils but not a full in house session on scrutiny and the Chair feels it would be useful to arrange a workshop for the new Council year. This is also a topic which has been requested through Member personal development plans and a generic workshop session covering the key elements of good scrutiny would be both valuable for newer councillors and be a useful refresher for more experienced members. The session would be open to all councillors – not just those on Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The proposal below is to bring in external trainers to provide a more objective approach and perhaps give new direction and focus to scrutiny work in Chorley.

### TRAINING PROPOSAL

- INLOGOV is a branch of the University of Birmingham who have a long standing reputation for training within local government and recognised expertise in the area of overview and scrutiny. INLOGOV trainers recently ran a scrutiny workshop at County Hall for Lancashire County Councillors which was very well received. The proposal is to ask that they run something along similar lines here in Chorley. An initial approach has confirmed that they could offer a full day session at a cost of £950. This would be delivered by either Andrew

Coulson or John Cade. It I suggested that this could be run from 2.00pm to 7.00pm with refreshments at around 4.30 to 5pm. A suggested date is Tuesday 15 July 2014 – but views on these timings and date are requested.

6. The proposal is that the event will be workshop style with the following content :

- how to prepare for scrutiny committees or short-life task and finish groups
- the relationships between scrutiny chairs and scrutiny officers
- how to choose a small number of topics for scrutiny investigations
- how to plan and develop questions
- how to get what you want from those who come to answer questions
- innovative ways of collecting evidence
- how to make recommendations effective
- the nature of scrutiny leadership
- the party political dimension

7. Members views on the suggestions set out in paragraphs 5 and 6 above, are requested.

### IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

8. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors' comments are included:

Finance	x	Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal		Integrated Impact Assessment required?	
No significant implications in this area		Policy and Communications	

### COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER

9. The cost of this training at £950 can be met from the current year's member development budget.

### COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

10. There are no specific monitoring officer comments but it is useful for Council's to undertake a regular refresh on the principles and effectiveness of scrutiny.

**GARY HALL**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Carol Russell	5196	1 April 2014	***