

Title of Report:	Overview and Scrutiny Training
Report to be considered by:	Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission
Date of Meeting:	26 February 2013

Purpose of Report: To propose that overview and scrutiny training be undertaken by members of the Commission.

Recommended Action: Consider and agree the proposal.

Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission Chairman	
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Executive Report

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission has suggested that it would be beneficial for members of the Commission, the Health Scrutiny Panel and Resource Management Working Group to undertake training in Overview and Scrutiny.
- 1.2 It is anticipated that the skills gained through training would assist with the effectiveness and productivity of the scrutiny process, and provide consistency of approach across the three bodies.

2. Overview and Scrutiny Workshops

- 2.1 The Institute of Local Government Studies at the University of Birmingham (INLOGOV) offer interactive in-house workshops to local authorities that can be tailored to need and might include:
 - (1) Planning and Scoping: Agreeing the purpose, range and outcome of a review;
 - (2) Questioning Skills: Planning lines of questioning and using different types of questions in order to effectively explore an issue;
 - (3) Weighing up Evidence: Making use of direct and indirect, written, visual and verbal evidence to investigate below the surface of policies and strategies.
- 2.2 Full and half day courses are available (six hours and three and a half hours respectively) for up to 20 participants.
- 2.3 Should Members agree that training such as that set out above is desirable then the necessary and appropriate checks and processes will be undertaken to ensure that INLOGOV offers value for money and that procurement rules are being followed.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 It is recommended that members of the Commission agree the proposal to undertake training.

Appendices

There are no appendices to this report.