

**To: Cumbria Overview & Scrutiny Practitioners Group**

Cc: Member Development Administrators  
HR Managers

Dear Colleague

**ACE : Overview & Scrutiny Chairs, Vice Chairs and Aspiring Chairs Residential Programme - October 2008**

I am writing to you to let you know about the National Overview & Scrutiny Chairs Programme that we have jointly commissioned for O & S Chairs and Vice Chairs and Aspiring Chairs through ACE.

**The Programme in previous years in Cumbria**

The Centre for Public Scrutiny and IDeA have now run the National Overview & Scrutiny Chairs Programme in Cumbria for ACE for the last 2 consecutive years and feedback has been extremely positive:

**“I expected it to be useful but it has been at least twice as successful as that.”**

**“I could really recommend the focus and intensity of the programme.  
The facilitators were inspirational and all the people I spoke to got something out of it” \***

*-Evaluation feedback from October 2007 Overview & Scrutiny Chairs Programme*

**This year's Programme**

The National Overview & Scrutiny Chairs Programme will be run again in Cumbria for all Chairs, Vice Chairs and aspiring Chairs of O & S Committees. This will be funded by ACE. It is a high quality 2 day residential programme and the dates for this are:

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> October with overnight stay on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October at Westmorland Hotel, Nr Tebay .**

<http://www.westmorlandhotel.com/aboutus/index.htm> -please follow the link for directions.

## **The Content**

There are 3 main elements to the programme across the 2 days:

- Identification of leadership styles
- Political relationships & skills
- Bespoke scenarios for Cumbria

## **The Deliverers**

The two days will be lead by:

Jessica Crowe, Executive Director of Centre for Public Scrutiny

Gareth Wall, CfPS

Andy Holder or Mhairi Cameron, (TBC) Andy Holder Associates

Paul Wheeler, Director of Political Skills Forum

## **The Audience**

Please could you highlight this opportunity to your Chairs, Vice Chairs and aspiring Chairs of O & S Committees within your Local Authorities as soon as possible.

Please could you ask them to complete the booking form attached and return it to Grace Collins at IDEa at [grace.collins@idea.gov.uk](mailto:grace.collins@idea.gov.uk) by **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September**

Please make your members aware that this is a very high quality, 2 day residential programme. We will be booking accommodation for Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October for all members booked. Obviously once your members are booked on, we would urge them not to cancel their place unless obviously there are unforeseen urgent circumstances which mean they cannot attend.

There will be up to 25 places for members across all 7 Authorities. However, due to Eden moving to the Leader/Cabinet Model of Governance, we will reserve 5 spaces for Eden O & S members. Every other Authority can fill between 3 - 4 places up to the maximum number of 25.

## **Next Steps**

The Programme is being funded by ACE and is a fantastic opportunity for all Chairs, Vice Chairs and aspiring Chairs to develop their own skills and also to develop together as a cross Authority group of O & S Chairs and Vice Chairs. The joint working in particular is seen as a real positive of the programme.

If you would like to know which of your elected members have previously undertaken this programme, please contact Holly Townsend on [hollyt@carlisle.gov.uk](mailto:hollyt@carlisle.gov.uk) .

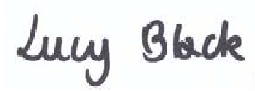
## **ACE – Next Steps**

This is the final commissioning ACE will undertake before it moves into the new joint program for Cumbria – the Cumbria Improvement & Efficiency Programme (CIEP), to be hosted by Cumbria County Council.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Best Wishes

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Lucy Black". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly informal style. The first name "Lucy" is written with a large 'L' and a small 'y'. The last name "Black" is written with a capital 'B' and a cursive 'k'. The signature is set against a light blue rectangular background.

**Lucy Black**  
**Programme Manager**