

Terms of Reference

East Midlands Scrutiny Network

1. To provide a forum to consider, discuss and exchange views and information on a range of issues in relation to accountability, overview and scrutiny and to voice those views as appropriate
2. To liaise with and act as a support and co-ordinating network for those councillors and officers responsible for local Overview and Scrutiny
3. To identify learning needs and provide support in the development and dissemination of good practice.
4. To receive and disseminate relevant information, national policy developments and best practice amongst Local Authorities and other scrutineers.
5. To work in collaboration where relevant with partner organisations, lay scrutineers, professional bodies, and support agencies.
6. To provide subject specific forums where required (ie Health Network for scrutiny of the NHS) and appoint task and finish groups as necessary.

Network members

7. The network will normally meet four times a year and be open to local authority councillors and officers and other stakeholders as invited by the Network.
8. Network members will be asked to
 - disseminate information received through the Network to colleagues in their own Local Authority, sub-region and professional network as appropriate.

Chair and Vice Chair

9. The network will appoint a chair and vice-chair (Member and Officer). The appointments will be reviewed every three years but to provide continuity to the network, the review of a chair or vice-chair should not happen in the same year.
10. The Chair/Vice Chair of the network or his/her nominee will be asked to
 - Provide policy advice from time to time to East Midlands Councils.
 - To keep the group updated with current issues and priorities.
 - To set a work plan and review its objectives on an annual basis.
 - To provide a programme of relevant speakers to update the network.
 - To represent the views of the Network including at the National O&S Forum