



## **Annual Assembly of Standards Committees - 12-13 October 2009**

### **Report by the Executive Head of Legal and Democratic Services**

#### **1.0 Summary**

1.1 To receive details of the Annual Assembly of Standards Committees and to determine attendance, if any, at the event.

#### **2.0 Background**

2.1 The Standards Board for England holds an Annual Assembly in October each year at the International convention Centre in Birmingham.

2.2 This year the dates are 12-13 October.

2.3 The theme this year is based around the experiences of Standards Committee members; focusing on experiences, expertise, challenges and successes summarised by the banner of 'Bringing Standards into Focus'.

2.4 The sessions already identified will be on the following areas:

- Making sense of political party governance and discipline
- Exploring the effectiveness of the ethical environment
- Working effectively with members, council leaders and chief executives to embed high standards in the culture and governance of the authority
- Improving the skills of the standards committee
- Practical advice on raising the public profile of the standards committee's work via the internet and local media

2.5 The full cost of the conference is £430 plus VAT, one day attendance is £230. On top of this would be travel and hotel accommodation, as necessary.

2.6 The Committee is invited to consider whether attendance by a representative of the committee would be of benefit, and if so to determine who would represent Adur.

2.7 Regardless of any decision made at 2.6, the Committee is further invited to consider whether attendance by the Monitoring Office would be of benefit, and if so suggest that this attendance be shared with Worthing Borough Council as the Monitoring Officer has responsibility for both Councils.

### **3.0 Legal Implications**

3.1 There are no legal implications contained in this report.

3.2 Attendance at the Assembly is discretionary.

### **4.0 Financial Implications**

4.1 There is separate budget provision for attendance at any Conference for staff and for members (including Independent Members). There is no difference in the Conference fee for officers or Members.

4.2 If attending over 2 days overnight accommodation would be necessary – the cost of this seems to vary from £60 - £100 per night.

4.3 If the Committee authorised attendance by the Monitoring Officer there would be an expectation that this cost would be shared with Worthing Borough Council as the attendance would be mutually beneficial to both Councils.

### **5.0 Recommendation**

5.1 To consider and determine any attendance at the Annual Assembly in October 2009 as outlined at paragraphs 2.6 and 2.7.

### **Local Government Act 1972**

#### **Background Papers:**

Conference literature from Benedict Business Resources on behalf of the Standards Board for England received on 19 March 2009

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## **Schedule of other matters**

### **1.0 Council Priority**

1.1 There is no specific Council Priority

### **2.0 Specific Targets**

2.1 KLOE, 28 and 28a at Level 3

### **3.0 Sustainability Issues**

3.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

### **4.0 Equality Issues**

4.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

### **5.0 Community Safety issues (Section 17)**

5.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

### **6.0 Human Rights Issues**

6.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

### **7.0 Reputation Implications**

7.1 Members of the Council (elected, co-opted and independent) have a key role in reputation and ethical conduct in public office.

### **8.0 Consultations**

8.1 Matter considered.

### **9.0 Risk assessment**

9.1 Matter considered.

### **10.0 Health & Safety Issues**

10.1 Matters considered and no issues identified.

### **11.0 Procurement Strategy**

11.1 Matters considered and no issues identified.

### **12.0 Partnership working**

12.1 Matters considered and identified in paragraph 2.7