

STANDARDS COMMITTEE – 12TH APRIL 2006

FIFTH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF STANDARDS COMMITTEES`

Report of the: Monitoring Officer

Status: For Consideration

This report supports the Key Aim of promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct in local government.

Portfolio Holder Cllr. Loney

Head of Service Head of Legal and Committee Services – Mrs. Christine Nuttall

Recommendation: It be resolved that, budget allowing, the Committee puts forward two Members to attend the Fifth Annual Assembly of Standards Committees Conference on 16th and 17th October 2006 at Birmingham.

Background and Introduction

1 The Fifth Annual Assembly of the Standards Committees is due to take place between the 16th and 17th October 2006 in Birmingham. This Conference event is entitled “Bridging the Gap”. It is regarded as one of the most important events of the year for Members and Officers who work with the Code of Conduct.

Bridging the Gap

2 Local Authorities across the country have recognised that local ownership of the Ethical Agenda is key to its success. This Conference addresses the issues relating to how individuals and their authorities are delivering effectively on the standards that the ethical framework, communities and others within local government expect. Focus will be placed on preparation for local authorities to face the challenges that lie ahead in terms of a revised Code of Conduct and on a more locally focused system. The Conference will extend to concentrate on identifying and then closing the gap between the resources, knowledge and experience needed for effective regulation of ethical standards at a local level.

3 The Conference will be opened by Phil Woolas, MP, Minister for Local Government, who will set out his vision for the future of the ethical framework. He will also give an update on the implementation of revised Code of Conduct and proposals for a more locally focused system. An outline of the Conference is set out in the attached Appendix.

Attendance at the Conference

- 4 The Committee is requested to nominated two Members to attend the Conference with the Monitoring Officer. Based on experience from previous years the Conference will be sold out and therefore it is recommended that the Council makes its booking as soon as possible. At the time of writing the report costs were being determined along with the likely available budget. If there is insufficient budget then the Committee will be requested to nominate one member.

Sources of Information: Taking an objective approach regulation with a local focus – the Standards Board for England

Contact Officer(s): Christine Nuttall – ext. 7245

Corporate Resources Director
Pav Ramewal

RISK ASSESSMENT STATEMENT

Attendance at the Assembly is crucial in enabling this Authority to keep up to date with the work of the Board and the need to increase ethical standards within the authority thus enhancing corporate governance within the organisation.