

SECOND ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF STANDARDS COMMITTEES

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider the programme for the above and consider whether Members of this Committee should attend.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The “First Annual Assembly of Standards Committees”, attended by the Council’s Monitoring Officer and Deputy, was held in May 2002. The Standards Board’s intention was to bring together the practitioners most closely involved in making the code of conduct work and begin to share experience of the new system. The Assembly offered a selection of workshops and was free.
- 2.2 The Second Assembly continues the theme, providing “an opportunity for members and officers to come together to discuss the practical implementation of the Code of Conduct, the implications of regulations covering local investigation and determination and building confidence in local democracy”.

3 DETAILS OF THE SECOND ASSEMBLY

- 3.1 This year the Assembly will take place over two days, 9-10th June, at ICC Birmingham. A copy of the programme is attached at appendix 1. The Conference costs £310 per delegate inclusive of conference notes, Monday lunch and dinner and Tuesday lunch but not overnight accommodation.
- 3.2 As much of the subject matter is new to local government, it is suggested the Council should send a delegation to the Assembly and meet the cost of travel and accommodation. Members’ views are sought on this, the number of delegates who might attend and how they should be selected. For example, it may be that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and one independent Member would be appropriate.

4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The cost of sending three delegates to the Second Annual Assembly is estimated to be £1500, involving shared transport and overnight accommodation for two nights in Birmingham. This will be met from the Member Training and Support budget.

5 RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

to determine whether to send a delegation to the Second Annual Assembly of Standards Committees and recommends to Council accordingly. (CD(LP&A))

John Honey

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Background Papers:

Letter from Standards Board dated 24 February 2003

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APPENDIX 1

plenary sessions



The Second Annual Assembly of Standards Committees provides an opportunity for members and officers to come together to discuss the practical implementation of the Code of Conduct, the implications of regulations covering local investigation and determination and building confidence in local democracy.

SECTION 66: LOCAL DETERMINATION AND INVESTIGATION

The conference begins with an update on the Section 66 regulations, explaining where we are with the legislation and what the implications are for Standards Committees, monitoring officers and the public's confidence in local democracy.

Following this session, delegates will break into a series of workshops, chaired by members of The Standards Board. Feedback from these workshops will be presented to Chris Leslie MP, who will address the conference at a later stage.

OTHER SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

THE RT. HON NICK RAYNSFORD MP, Minister of State for Local Government and the Regions, speaks about the Government's commitment to building confidence in local democracy.

CHRIS LESLIE MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, answers delegates questions.


JOHN PITT, Monitoring Officer, Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council, discusses the after misconduct.

SIMON HOGGART, Senior Writer *The Guardian*, **MATHEW TAYLOR**, Director IPPR, **CLAIRE FOX**, Director, Institute of Ideas.

BOB WORCESTER, Chair MORL, debate the nature and origin of ideas.

KEVIN MAGUIRE, Chief Reporter, *The Guardian* on 'Local government ethics: these boring words?'

workshops



Workshops are open to all delegates. Some sessions will run a number of times to cater for the differing needs of monitoring officers and Standards Committee members. The workshops include:

- OPEN HOUSE QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSIONS
- CRACKING THE CODE
- IF ONLY HAD APPLES
- GETTING DOWN TO DETAIL
- TRAINING SOFTLY, YEOMANLY AND CONCILIATION
- THE OTHER AUTHORITY
- A PRACTICAL APPROACH TO THE ADJUDICATION PANEL
- THE MULTIPLE MONITORING OFFICER
- OPEN AND CLOSED MINDS
- INDEPENDENT, BUT NOT ALONE
- COMING AWAY FOR CONFIDENCE