

6. **STANDARDS BOARD FOR ENGLAND ANNUAL ASSEMBLY 2006 (A.1118/EWJ)**

Proposal

1. To consider attendance at the Annual Assembly.

2. **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Committee approve the attendance of delegates at the Annual Assembly of the Standards Board to be held in Birmingham on 16 & 17 October 2006, with attendance as an approved duty.

Policy/Legal Background

3. The Standards Board for England holds an Assembly every year for local authority Members and Officers.

4. Last year the Chair of the Committee attended the Assembly on behalf of the Authority. The Democratic Services Manager, who is also the Deputy Monitoring Officer, also attended.

Key Issues

5. The Assembly will be held at the ICC Birmingham on Monday and Tuesday 16 & 17 October 2006,

6. The delegate's fee for the two-day conference is £415 plus VAT per delegate. This includes conference notes and refreshments (Monday lunch and dinner, and Tuesday lunch). The fee for one-day attendance is £310 plus VAT per delegate. This includes conference notes and refreshments (Monday dinner and lunch on the day of attendance). The delegate's fee does not include overnight accommodation.

7. Attendance at the Assembly has always been beneficial in keeping up to date with all the relevant issues and developments on the Members' Code of Conduct and the ethical standards regime.

8. The Members' training budget is limited and has many demands. It is likely that we could only afford the attendance of two Members.

APPENDIX

Background

1. The theme for the Assembly this year is "Bridging the Gap towards Effective Local Regulation. The Standards Board's programme says, "The conference comes at a time of change, with a revised Code and local arrangements for receiving complaints on the horizon. And for many of you, local investigations and hearings are still in the process of being fully embedded within your authority's governance framework. So as ever, in the current climate, there seem to be more unknowns facing standards committees and monitoring officers than certainties, plenty of challenges and no room for complacency. And that's what this conference is all about: Where do we need to be? Where are we now? And how do we get there?"

This year's programme, therefore, is of practical relevance in helping you and your authority to bridge the gap between where you are now – in being able to deliver effectively on the revised standards framework – and where you need to be, whilst still providing plenty of opportunity for some valuable networking and sharing of experiences and solutions with other local practitioners."

Resources

2. Member's attendance at the Assembly will be funded from the usual Members' training budget.

Risk Management

3. There are no risks arising out of the report.

Human Rights, Equalities, Health & Safety

4. There are no such issues arising out of the report.

Consultees

5. None necessary

Enclosures

6. None.

List of Background Papers (not previously published)

7. None

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