



AGENDA ITEM: 5

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

10 JUNE 2008

ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF STANDARDS COMMITTEES 2008

RICHARD G LONG,

DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To present details of the Annual Assembly of Standards Committees and seek instructions in regard to attendance.

BACKGROUND

2. The 7th Annual Assembly of Standards Committees will take place on 13 and 14 October 2008 at the International Convention Centre in Birmingham.
3. The event programme is entitled 'Delivering the Goods'. It will highlight key issues of governance and ethics, including how to develop an exemplary standards committee, promote good governance, of partnerships and build public confidence in local authority members. The wide range of sessions also covers the local standards system, including managing local assessment, investigations and determinations, mediation, and handling complex complaints. The Assembly will also be providing guidance on the Code in several sessions, including 'The Code Made Clear' and, a specialist session focusing on planning issues.
4. Delegates attend a mix of plenary, mini-plenary sessions, workshops, question and answer sessions and fringe events. There are 21 breakout sessions to choose from, including several sessions with a practical focus designed to help those attending put the local standards framework and the Code into action. Other sessions address wider issues of governance, leadership and ethics, including 'Mind the Gap: accountability and Joint Working' and 'Joining the Dots: understanding corporate governance'. Details of each day's programme are appended to the report.
5. The fee for the two-day conference is £430 plus VAT per delegate. This includes conference materials and refreshments (Monday lunch and dinner, and Tuesday lunch). The fee for one-day attendance is £320 plus VAT per delegate. This

includes conference materials and refreshments (Monday dinner and lunch on the day attended).

6. The two-day fee is for a single delegate, attending the conference for two days. If two separate delegates wish to attend one day each, the fee will be £320 plus VAT per delegate. It is not permissible to split delegate places. Any authority wishing to change a two-day delegate place to two one-day delegate places will be invoiced the balance of the fee.
7. Last year's Assembly sold out early and places for the current year are filled fast. If places are required they should be booked as soon as possible.

RECOMMENDATION

8. That the Committee determines whether to attend the 2008 Assembly and, if so, authorise attendance and agree the names of up to two delegates to attend.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Programme Seventh Annual Assembly of Standards Committees
Standards Board England website

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**Delivering the Goods: Local Standards in Action
Seventh Annual Assembly of Standards Committees
13-14 October 2008, ICC, Birmingham**

The Annual Assembly of Standards Committees is one of the most important events of the year for all those who work with the Code of Conduct.

Book your place now

Last year's conference was sold out – so don't delay and [book your place](#) today.

Are you ready to deliver the goods?

Are you ready to meet the challenges of the new local standards framework?

Have you got the right resources and the right processes in place to deliver effective local assessment of allegations and conduct watertight investigations?

If you want to develop an exemplary standards committee, promote good governance of partnerships and build better public confidence in your members, then Delivering the Goods is for you.

Getting it right

Delivering the Goods will get you up to speed with the essentials of local standards, explaining how to put the new framework into action. A comprehensive [programme](#) of plenaries and workshops will give you the advice, best practice examples and skills training you need to drive the standards agenda forward in your authority.

Last year, more than 97% of delegates who attended the conference said they found it useful. You can read more about what delegates to last year's conference said on our [testimonials](#) page.

Find out more

You can use this website to find out more about [what's on](#) at the conference. You can [book your place](#), and find out how to get to Birmingham, and [where to stay](#) in the city.

Over the coming months, more information will be added to this site, including speaker and programme updates, and the practical guidance you need to make your conference experience a success. So keep checking back for the latest news.

Monday 13 October: at a glance

08.30 – 10.00	Registration
09.15 – 10.00	<u>Getting up to speed</u>
10.15 - 11.15	Opening plenary
10.15 – 10.25	<u>Welcome</u>
10.25 – 10.40	<u>Supporting local standards</u>
10.40 – 11.00	<u>Local standards in action: The first six months</u>
11.00 – 11.15	<u>Over to you</u>
11.15 – 11.30	Comfort break
11.30 – 13.00	Breakout sessions
	<p>Delegates should select one of the following sessions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternative action masterclass <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What went wrong? • Balancing act • Mind the gap: Setting standards for joint working <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering local assessment • Delivering local investigations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First response • The Code made clear • Communicating with communities • Questions and answers: New standards committee members <p>For more information about breakout sessions please click here</p>
13.00 – 14.15	Lunch
14.15 – 15.30	Plenary
	<u>A higher level</u>
15.30 – 16.00	Refreshments
16.00 – 17.30	Breakout sessions
	<p>Delegates should select one of the following sessions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternative action masterclass <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What went wrong? • Balancing act • Mind the gap: Setting standards for joint working

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering local assessment • Delivering local investigations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First response • The Code made clear • Communicating with communities • Questions and answers: Monitoring officers <p>For more information about breakout sessions please click here</p>
17.30	Close of day one
18.00 – 19.00	<u>Fringe events</u>
20.00 – 23.00	Conference dinner

Tuesday 16 October: at a glance

On this page, you can view at a glance the programme that ran on the second day of the Sixth Annual Assembly of Standards Committees.

Please click on the relevant session for more information.

[View day one of the programme at a glance](#)

08/00 - 09.00	Registration
09.00 - 10.30	<p>Breakout sessions</p> <p>Delegates should select one of the following sessions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In confidence • Keeping track of standards: Monitoring and support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering local assessment • Delivering local determinations and setting standards • Joining the dots: Understanding corporate governance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mediation in action • Planning ahead • The parish perspective • Focus on fire, police and park authorities • Questions and answers: Standards committee members <p>For more information about breakout sessions please click here</p>
10.30 - 11.00	Refreshments
11.00 - 12.15	<p>Plenary</p> <p>Making an impact</p>
12.15 - 13.30	Lunch
13.30 - 15.00	<p>Breakout sessions</p> <p>Delegates should select one of the following sessions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In confidence • Keeping track of standards: Monitoring and support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering local assessment • Delivering local determinations and setting standards • Joining the dots: Understanding corporate governance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mediation in action • Planning ahead

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The parish perspective• Focus on fire, police and park authorities• Questions and answers: Standards committee members
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