

**2009 ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF STANDARDS COMMITTEES – BRINGING STANDARDS INTO FOCUS**

**Report of the City Solicitor**

**Introduction**

The 2009 Annual Assembly of Standards Committees entitled “Bringing Standards into Focus” will be held on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> October at the International Convention Centre, Birmingham.

In response to delegate feedback, this year’s Assembly programme is more practical. The Standards Board for England is working with a forum of Monitoring Officers, Independent Chairs and Standards Committee Members to develop a range of workshops, plenary sessions and advice clinics that give delegates the opportunity to focus on how they are delivering local standards and to share good practice, ideas and innovations.

Delivered by Local Government experts the sessions will bring issues into focus, including: -

- 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 Authority’s Standards Committee.

**Background**

The Committee at its meeting held on 19th March, 2003 agreed to adopt the following procedure with regard to attendance at future conferences/events arranged by the Standards Board:-

- the Chairman of the Standards Committee or if he is unable to attend, the Vice-Chairman be authorised to attend; together with the Monitoring Officer (when appropriate); and
- one further Member of the Committee be authorised to attend, the Member to be determined by the establishment and operation by the City Solicitor of a conference attendance rota to be applied in strict alphabetical order.

However, bearing in mind some Members of the Committee have attended now on a number of occasions, it might be more beneficial to those who have not previously attended the conference.

### **Recommendation**

The Committee is asked to consider whether it wishes to nominate representatives to attend the conference in October.

### **Background Papers**

Conference details from the Standards Board for England.