

2010 ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF STANDARDS COMMITTEES – A PLACE FOR STANDARDS

Report of the Chief Solicitor

Introduction

The 2010 Annual Assembly of Standards Committees entitled “A Place for Standards” will be held on 18th and 19th October at the International Convention Centre, Birmingham.

"A place for standards" is focused on sharing good practice, developing high standards and helping authorities to manage a proportionate, cost effective local standards framework.

A wide range of workshops and presentations will include:-

- Sessions for new or less experienced delegates to build confidence in managing local assessment, investigations, hearings, determinations and the Code of Conduct.
- How to develop a place for Standards in your authority, and proactively engage with members, leaders and key decision makers.
- How to successfully recruit independent Standards Committee members.
- How to develop a proactive work programme for your Standards Committee.
- How to deal with challenging behaviour and get 'difficult' members to understand the local standards framework.
- The right qualities and skills for an effective independent chair.
- To blog or not to blog? Using social media and staying within the Code.
- Dedicated sessions focused on town and parish councils and fire, police, integrated transport and parks authorities.

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.