

**OTHER STANDARDS ISSUES**  
**(Report by the Head of Law, Property and Governance**  
**and Monitoring Officer)**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Committee is requested to nominate Members to attend the 2009 Annual Assembly of Standards Committees which is to be held at the International Convention Centre, Birmingham on 12th and 13th October 2009.
- 1.2 In addition to the Monitoring Officer, the Committee has in previous years authorised the attendance of up to three Members and these places have been reserved in advance.
- 1.3 For the information of new Members, conference fees, travelling and accommodation expenses are met by the District Council.
- 1.4 Members may recall the discussion at the last meeting (Minute No. 50 refers) and the Chairman's objective to raise the profile and work of the Standards Committee and the Code of Conduct. To this end, the Monitoring Officer drafted an article in consultation with the Chairman, and this was published in the May 2009 edition of District Wide which is circulated to all homes in Huntingdonshire. A copy of the piece is appended hereto.

**2. CONFERENCE DETAILS**

- 2.1 This year's conference "Bringing Standards into Focus" will present an opportunity for delegates to share their own experiences, expertise, challenges and successes, and discuss how their authorities are delivering local standards to enable the Assembly to share good and innovative practice.
- 2.2 The 2009 Assembly will host a range of sessions delivered by local government experts on -
  - 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; and
  - improving the skills of the Standards Committee.
- 2.3 A range of workshops, plenary sessions and advice clinics concentrating on good practice and key areas of the standards framework will also be available. Session themes include sharing the

lessons learned about local assessment; experiences of managing investigations and sanctions; understanding the latest revisions to the Code of Conduct; the practical outcomes of alternative action and a step by step guide to setting up joint Standards Committees.

- 2.4 The daily event programme is available to view using the following link -

[www.annualassembly.co.uk/eventprogramme/monday12thoctober](http://www.annualassembly.co.uk/eventprogramme/monday12thoctober)

### 3. **CONCLUSION**

- 3.1 The Committee is requested -

- to nominate three Members to attend the 2009 Annual Assembly of Standards Committees; and
- to note the content of the article 'Cracking the Code' published in the May 2009 edition of District Wide.

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Letter received from the Standards Board for England - May 2009.

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