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**Meeting:** Standards Committee  
**Date:** 6 November 2009  
**Subject:** Bringing Standards into Focus – Standards for England Annual Assembly Conference 12-13 October 2009  
**Report of:** Monitoring Officer  
**Summary:** To update Members on the attendance at the Annual Assembly of the Standards for England at their Conference on 12 and 13 October 2009.

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**Contact Officer:** Mrs Barbara Morris, Assistant Director Legal & Democratic/Monitoring Officer  
Tel: 01462 611028

**Public/Exempt:** Public

**Wards Affected:** All

**Function of:** Non-executive

**Reason for urgency (if appropriate)** N/A

## **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

### **Council Priorities:**

Contributes to all Council priorities to ensure good governance

### **Financial:**

£2,160 plus VAT for all four delegates and overnight accommodation

### **Legal:**

To ensure that continued training and development is offered to ensure high ethical standards are maintained in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007

### **Risk Management:**

N/A

### **Staffing (including Trades Unions):**

N/A

### **Equalities/Human Rights:**

N/A

**Community Development/Safety:**

N/A

**Sustainability:**

N/A

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**That the Committee notes the report attached at Appendix "A" in respect of attendance at the Standards for England Annual Assembly Conference on 12 and 13 October 2009 in Birmingham.**

**Bringing Standards into Focus**

1. The Standards Board for England held their Annual Conference relating to standards matters which was entitled "Bringing Standards into Focus" on 12 and 13 October 2009 at the International Convention Centre, Birmingham.
2. The Conference focused on local authorities experiences and challenges faced in respect of standard matters. A range of sessions were held, 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 Standards Committee.
3. The Monitoring Officer and Brian Collier attended the Conference.
4. Attached at Appendix "A" is the report of Cllr B Collier (to follow).
5. The Committee is asked to note this report.

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Location of papers: Priory House, Chicksands