

## Agenda Item: 8

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**Meeting:** Standards Committee

**Date:** 1 May 2009

**Subject:** Bringing Standards into Focus – Standards Board Conference 12-13 October 2009

**Report of:** Monitoring Officer

**Summary:** To bring to the attention of Members the date of the Annual Assembly of the Standards Board for England and to determine those attending the Conference.

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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

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### RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the Committee determine attendance at the Standards Board Annual Assembly on 12 and 13 October 2009 in Birmingham.
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### Bringing Standards into Focus

1. Members will be aware that the Standards Board for England hold an Annual Conference relating to standards matters. This year's Conference is entitled "Bringing Standards into Focus" and will be held on 12 and 13 October 2009 at the International Convention Centre, Birmingham.
2. This year's Conference will be focusing on local authorities experiences and challenges faced in respect of standard matters. A range of sessions will be 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 has reserved four places at the Conference and it is suggested that three Members, together with the Monitoring Officer or her representative be authorised to attend.
4. It should be borne in mind that it is suggested that nominations include one Independent, one Town and Parish and one elected Member together with the Monitoring Officer or her representative.

### **Conclusion and Next Steps**

5. Once the recommendations for attendance at the Conference have been agreed further details will be sent to those Members attending.

<b>CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS</b>
<p><b>Council Priorities:</b> Contributes to all Council priorities to ensure good governance</p> <p><b>Financial:</b> £2,160 plus VAT for all four delegates and overnight accommodation</p> <p><b>Legal:</b> 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</p> <p><b>Risk Management:</b> N/A</p> <p><b>Staffing (including Trades Unions):</b> N/A</p> <p><b>Equalities/Human Rights:</b> N/A</p> <p><b>Community Development/Safety:</b> N/A</p> <p><b>Sustainability:</b> N/A</p>

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Location of papers: Priory House, Chicksands