

WYFRA	FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE	14 MARCH 2008	ITEM NO
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REPORT OF: THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE RESOURCES

PURPOSE OF REPORT: TO CONSIDER THE ATTENDANCE OF DELEGATES AT THE 7TH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF STANDARDS COMMITTEES

RECOMMENDATION: THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO THE ATTENDANCE OF MEMBERS AT THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE ORGANISED BY THE STANDARDS BOARD FOR ENGLAND AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE, BIRMINGHAM ON 13 – 14 OCTOBER 2008.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT DETAILS

EXEMPTION CATEGORY: None

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BACKGROUND PAPERS:

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Standards Board for England (SBE) has advised that arrangements are in hand for the 7th Annual Assembly for Standards Committee to take place in Birmingham on 13 – 14 October 2008.
- 1.2 No detailed information has been received about the content and focus of this specific Assembly but approval has been given in the past by this Authority for attendance by the independent Standards Committee members and one member from each political group at previous years' events.
- 1.3 Consideration was given at the February 2007 meeting of this Committee to attendance at a number of conferences and it was resolved at that time that the advantages of participation in the Annual SBE Assembly in future years be debated in advance of the Seventh Assembly.

2. INFORMATION

- 2.1 A brief survey was undertaken with all those Members who attended the Sixth Assembly in October 2007 as to the value of the event and its worth in terms of annual attendance.

- 2.2 A variety of responses were received as follows;

Mr Phil Marshall, Independent chair of Standards Committee

- gained more in previous years but on balance felt it was useful to attend in terms of networking opportunities and practical workshop sessions

Ms Lynn Knowles, Independent member of Standards Committee

- does not feel it would be appropriate for all Standards Members to attend on an annual basis

Councillor Phil Booth, Councillor Mick Coulson

- annual attendance not necessary
- biennial attendance may be appropriate

Councillor John Cole, Councillor Andrea McKenna

- consider it useful to attend on an annual basis

2. EQUALITY AND FAIRNESS IMPLICATIONS

2.1 There are no Equality and Fairness implications in this report.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The costs of the conference (£505 plus accommodation in 2007), including travel and subsistence, have been met in previous years from within existing revenue budget provision.