

WARDS AFFECTED All Wards

FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS: **Standards Committee**

28th January 2004

Standards Board for England – Third Annual Assembly of Standards Committees

Report of the Service Director (Democratic Services)

1. **Purpose of Report**

To inform Members of the details of the Third Annual Assembly of Standards Committees, to be held on 13th & 14th September 2004.

2. Report

The Standards Board for England has published details of the third Annual Assembly of Standards Committees under the banner "Crack the Code". This will be held on 13th and 14th September 2004 at the ICC Birmingham.

The conference, which is targeted at Council Leaders, Chief Executives, Monitoring Officers and Standards Committee Members will cover a wide range of topics including:

- Developing the Code. Debate on possible revisions to the Code to be fed back to Government
- Not enough Leaders? What is the role of Chief Executives and Council Leaders in promoting an ethical environment?
- The bigger picture. Should we be looking at whole authorities, rather than just individual behaviour?
- The local experience. The progress of local determinations and decisions
- Matters of conscience. Does the Code hinder a member's right to communicate with their community and place an onerous burden on them to report breaches of the Code?
- Bad, but not bad enough. A discussion on what can be done about poor behaviour that does not warrant a full investigation.

The main elements will include open house question and answer sessions, contributions from the local government minister and case studies.

Most of all, they want to give members and officers concerned with the Code of Conduct the opportunity to take the platform and share their ideas, opinions and experiences of the Code of Conduct, so that such shared experience can lead to a better understanding of the Code and its application.

The conference fee for the two days is £380 including VAT per delegate. This includes conference notes and refreshments (Monday lunch and dinner and Tuesday lunch).

The fee for one day attendance is £210 including VAT per delegate. This includes conference notes and refreshments and lunch on that day.

The conference dinner is available to one day delegates for a cost of £40 including VAT.

In all cases the VAT element is recoverable by the City Council.

A range of Hotel accommodation is available as necessary.

3. Recommendations

Members are asked to consider the level of representation from the City Council at this conference in order that appropriate reservations can be made.

4. Financial and legal Implications

The costs of the Conference are detailed within the report. Expenditure would be funded from within existing approved budgets for Members training and development.

There are no legal implications.

| OTHER IMPLICATIONS | YES/NO | Paragraph References Within Supporting information |
|-------------------------------|--------|--|
| Equal Opportunities | NO | |
| Policy | NO | |
| Sustainable and Environmental | NO | |
| Crime and Disorder | NO | |
| Human Rights Act | NO | |
| Elderly/People on Low Income | NO | |

5. Report Author

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