

CHESHIRE EAST

Standards Committee

Date of meeting: 25 November 2008
Report of: Governance Group
Title: Feedback from the Seventh Annual Standards Board Conference: "Delivering the Goods – Local Standards in Action"

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To receive updates and note feedback from the Standards Board Annual Conference held in Birmingham on 13 and 14 October 2008.

2.0 Decision Required

- 2.1 To note the report.

3.0 Information

- 3.1 The 2008 annual conference was attended by the Interim Monitoring Officer (Monitoring Officer for Macclesfield Borough Council), and Councillor John Goddard who is a member both of Macclesfield's Standards Committee and this committee.
- 3.2 The conference was extremely well attended by officers and members across the country who are connected with standards issues, including monitoring officers, elected committee members, independent members, parish members, chief executives and council leaders.
- 3.3 The conference was addressed by both the Chairman and the Chief Executive of the Standards Board for England, other Standards Board representatives, the Chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, the Managing Director of Ipsos Mori, a Government representative and a representative of the Audit Commission.
- 3.4 Between the main plenary sessions, there were a variety of different sessions which attendees were able to choose from. Some of these were designed to be more of interest for specific groups, with others of more general relevance, although all were open to all categories of attendees. They included areas such as delivering local assessment and investigations, alternative action, setting standards for joint working, consistency in managing standards, the Code of Conduct, mediation, planning ahead, and the parish perspective. A number of optional fringe events were included in the programme.

- 3.5 One of the key messages emanating from the conference was the need for Standards Committees to seek to raise the profile of their work, both within their organisations and in the public arena. The committee may wish to consider how this may be taken forward; a separate report on website presence for the committee is included on this agenda.

4.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs

- 4.1 ??.

5.0 Future Implication 2009/10 and beyond

- 5.1 ??.

6.0 Legal Implications

- 6.1 No specific implications.

7.0 Risk Assessment

- 7.1 Not applicable.

8.0 Overview of Day One, Year One and Term One Issues

- 8.1 Feedback from the Standards Board conference allows the committee to be aware of current key issues, to prepare for Day One, Year One and Term one Issues.

For further information:

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Background Documents:

N/a