

## Report of the Assistant Director Corporate Services (City Solicitor) to the meeting of Standards Committee to be held on 22 April 2009.

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### Subject:

West Yorkshire/Regional Standards Event

### Summary statement:

Standards Committee is invited to consider the proposals for a West Yorkshire /  
Regional Standards Event.

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### Portfolio:

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### Improvement Area:



2006-2007  
Improving Rural Services  
Empowering Communities



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Suzan Hemingway, Assistant Director Corporate Services (City Solicitor)



1. **Summary**

- 1.1 Standards Committee is invited to consider the proposals for a West Yorkshire / Regional Standards Event.

2. **Background**

- 2.1 On 5 March 2009 Standards Committee considered a report from the Assistant Director Corporate Services (City Solicitor) on the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly of Standards Committee which was held on 13/14 October 2008. In addition Standards Committee considered future support for the Annual Assembly.
- 2.2 At that meeting Standards Committee Members expressed some concerns regarding the format of the annual assembly and resolved that the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chair, send a letter to the Standards Board for England outlining the views of the Committee on the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly.
- 2.3 In addition Standards Committee members considered the possibility of setting up a Regional Meeting of Standards Committee members with a view to developing stronger networks across the region for Standards Committees.
- 2.4 The Assistant Director Corporate Services (City Solicitor) has spoken with the other Monitoring Officers in West Yorkshire and received a very positive response to the suggestion of a regional event. The West Yorkshire District Legal Officers (Monitoring Officers) are to meet on 24 April 2009 to discuss a proposed regional event.
- 2.5 Standards Committee members are invited to consider the format of a regional event and specifically what they as members would like to see covered by such an event.

3. **Options**

Standards Committee members are invited to discuss a proposed regional event and put forward their views on how they would like to see this developed. In particular Standards Committee is asked to consider:

- whether the conference should be a West Yorkshire or a wider regional event
- the length of the conference, half day, short full day or long full day
- whether Standards Committee members would like workshops on specific issues and, if so, the issues they would like covered by this training.
- whether Standards Committee members would like breakout group sessions so that members have alternative workshops to attend.
- whether Standards Committee members would like facilitated networking sessions of specific disciplines e.g Parish Councillors, Independent Members.
- whether Standards Committee members would like particular presentations from either Monitoring Officers or a National/Standards Board for England representative and, if so, the subject matter of such presentations.
- whether Standards Committee members feel that a question and answer session with the five West Yorkshire District Monitoring Officers would be supported.

**4. Financial and resource appraisal**

The regional event can be resourced by the five West Yorkshire Districts with support from the Council's Member Development.

**5. Legal appraisal**

- 5.1 There are no specific legal implications of this report but a training event for Standards Committee would ensure that committee members were equipped to deal with their specific role in terms of dealing with member complaints and their wider role in terms of promoting ethical governance in the organisation.

**6. Other implications**

- 6.1 There are no equal rights, sustainability, community safety, Human Rights Act or Trade Union implications.

**7. Not for publication documents**

None.

**8. Recommendations**

- 8.1 That Standards Committee consider the proposals for a West Yorkshire/ Regional Standards Event, specifically the issues raised in Paragraph 3 above, and confirm its preferences for the event.
- 8.2 That the Monitoring Officer report the Standards Committee preferences / recommendations for the event to the meeting of the West Yorkshire District Legal Officers on 24 April 2009.

**Reasons for the recommendations**

To ensure that a West Yorkshire/ Regional Standards event is member led and incorporates elements that are of benefit to all Standards Committee Members.

**9. Appendices**

None.

**10. Background documents**

None.