

**WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**22<sup>ND</sup> MAY 2006**

1. **FIFTH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF STANDARDS COMMITTEES**

Report of the Clerk.

RECOMMENDED

THAT the Chair of the Standards Committee [or a nominee] be authorised to attend the Assembly and that this be regarded as an approved duty for the purpose of the payment of allowances.

2. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report is submitted to draw Members' attention to the fifth Annual Assembly of Standards Committees hosted by the Standards Board for England.

3. **BACKGROUND**

3.1 This year's Assembly is taking place at the International Convention Centre in Birmingham on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2006.

3.2 The issues being addressed at the conference will include:

- Learn more about what an effective ethical environment looks like and understand more about the implications of the changing ethical environment, the local level complaint filter and revised Code of Conduct;
- Assess how your Standards Committee measures up and identify the strengths and weaknesses of your authority, working to establish key milestones moving forward;

- Local hearing and investigations – lessons learnt so far;
- Corporate Governance – integrating the ethical agenda.

4. **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

5. **CORPORATE AIM SUPPORTED**

The principal corporate aim supported by the information in this report is as follows.

1. Meeting the Fire Authority's statutory duties, standards and expectations.

6. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The course of action recommended in this report does not raise issues which should be drawn to the attention of the Authority's Monitoring Officer.

7. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The cost for the Chair of the Standards Committee to attend the full two-day conference, is £415.00 plus VAT.
- 7.2 Expenditure in respect of any associated allowances arising from attendance at this event would be met from within existing budgets.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Letter received from the Standards Board for England.

SUSAN PHELPS  
CLERK