

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

Standards Committee

14th December 2009

1. **2009 ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF STANDARDS COMMITTEES**

Report of the Monitoring Officer.

RECOMMENDED

THAT the Standards Committee be informed of the experiences and learning from the 2009 Annual Assembly of Standards Committees and consider any implications for the authority.

2. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 2.1 The purpose of the report is to inform members of the 2009 Assembly of Standards Committees which took place on 12th and 13th October 2009.

3. **BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The 2009 Annual Assembly of Standards Committees took place on 12th and 13th October 2009. It provided a forum for sharing good practice examples, talking through the experiences of managing the practicalities of the local standards framework and looking at strategic issues such as leadership.
- 3.2 The Assembly was attended by the independent Chair of the Standards Committee and the Monitoring Officer.
- 3.3 The Monitoring Officer was a member of the expert steering committee of standards committee members and officers that developed the programme for the Assembly. She was also a presenter at one of the Assembly sessions, "Sharing Good Practice: Monitoring Officers". This was attended by about 80-100 people. The Monitoring Officer drew upon the practices of the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority and in particular of Sandwell Council where she is also the Monitoring Officer.

- 3.4 The Assembly included plenary sessions, workshops and discussion forums covering a range of relevant topics.
- 3.5 The Standards Committee will be addressed by the independent chair of the Standards Committee to further share experiences and learning.

4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 4.1 In preparing this report an initial Equality Impact Assessment is not required and has not been carried out.

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 By learning from and sharing good practice the authority's ethical framework and corporate governance arrangements will be further strengthened. These are derived from law and are subject to regulation.

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

N SHARMA
MONITORING OFFICER