

Name of meeting and date: Standards Committee / 2 June 2009

Title of report: West Yorkshire Regional Standards Conference

Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	N/A
Is it in the Council's Forward Plan?	N/A
Is it eligible for "call in" by Scrutiny?	N/A
Cabinet member portfolio	Corporate

Electoral wards affected and ward councillors consulted: N/A

Public or private: Public

1. Purpose of report

To consider and approve attendance at the West Yorkshire Regional Standards Conference.

2. Key points

The Monitoring Officers of the five West Yorkshire Councils, namely Kirklees, Leeds, Bradford, Wakefield and Calderdale, have agreed to organise a West Yorkshire Regional Standards Conference. The purpose behind the conference is to allow all members from those five Standards Committees to meet together, to share experiences and issues arising from local determination, to hear from representatives from the Standards Board for England and to have an opportunity to network generally.

Whilst the Standards Board for England arrange a national conference in October of each year, this is not accessible to all members due to cost and time commitments, and allows a limited opportunity for members to meet colleagues from neighbouring authorities. This regional conference will be held, initially as a one-off, to allow every Standards Committee member the opportunity to attend. If successful, the Monitoring Officers will review whether to hold further similar events.

A draft outline of the programme for the conference is attached for information. The event will be held in Bradford City Hall on 9 July 2009. The cost per person attending is not yet confirmed, but will be a minimal cost to cover refreshment costs.

Councillor Mehboob Khan, the Leader of Kirklees Council who is also a member of the Standards Board for England, will attend the conference as will Paul Hoey, the Standards Board for England Director of Strategy and Guidance. There will be an opportunity to raise issues with those two speakers and also to ask them questions.

3. Implications for the Council

This is an excellent opportunity for members of the Standards Committee to meet and share experiences with colleagues in a similar position. A well-informed Committee will be better able to perform its functions effectively.

4. Consultees and their opinions

N/A

5. Officer recommendations and reasons

That the Committee recommend attendance by all members of the Standards Committee at this Regional Conference and approve payment of attendance allowance to those external members who are eligible for it, under the Members Allowances Scheme.

6. Cabinet portfolio holder recommendation

The Cabinet portfolio holder recommends attendance at this Conference.

7. Next steps

A formal programme and details of administrative arrangements will be sent to all members as soon as possible.

8. Contact officer and relevant papers

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West Yorkshire Regional Standards Conference

Thursday 9 July 2009

**City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Banqueting Suite, City Hall**

DRAFT AGENDA

9.00 – 10.00	Registration & Networking
10 .00 – 1030	Welcome & Introductions
10.30 – 11.00	Declarations of Interests Quiz
11.00 - 1230	Planning Training Exercise [Tea & Coffee available 11.30 onwards]
12.30 – 13.30	LUNCH
13.30 – 15.00	Workshop re Local Assessment [Tea and Coffee available 14.30 onwards]
15.00 – 15.30	Key Note Speaker plus Q & A
15.30 – 16.00	Monitoring Officer Panel Session
1600	Conference Close [16.00 – 16.30 meet & greet session for SBE Conference attendees]