



Walsall Council

Standards Committee

12 July 2010

Standards Committee - Case Handling and Learning

Summary of Report

Following the Annual Assembly of Standards Committees in October 2009, members who had attended the event expressed a wish to debate issues of interest and importance with fellow Committee members.

One of the sessions at the Conference which was attended by Mr Bates, vice chair was "The Highly Effective Standards Committee Forum" and he has asked if the Committee could discuss case handling and learning.

The report was initially presented to Committee in April 2010, however as Mr Bates was unable to attend, members asked if the debate could be deferred until the first meeting of the new municipal year.

Recommendations

- (1) That the content of the report be noted;
- (2) That the Committee debate Mr Bates brief (as attached at Appendix 1).

Resource Considerations:

Financial:

None arising from this report

Legal:

None arising from this report

Staffing:

None arising from this report

Citizen Impact:

None arising from this report

Community Safety:

None arising from this report

Environmental:

None arising from this report

Performance and Risk Management:**Risk:**

None arising from this report

Performance Management:

None arising from this report

Equality Implications:

This report complies fully with the Council's policies on equality and diversity

Consultation:

None arising from this report

Background papers

All published

**Signed:**

Bhupinder Gill
**Assistant Director Legal &
Constitutional Services and Monitoring
Officer**

Date: 2 July 2010

Contact Officer

Jo Whitehouse
Member Services Officer

☎ 01922 652025

✉ whitehousejl@walsall.gov.uk

**Signed:**

Rory Borealis
Executive Director (Resources)

Date: 5 July 2010

The Eighth Annual Assembly of Standards Committees was held at the International Convention Centre in Birmingham on Monday, 12 and Tuesday, 13 October 2009.

The Conference focused on “bringing standards into focus” and delivered sessions that demonstrated standards in action whilst providing opportunities for delegates to share good practice.

Another of the Assembly's key focuses was “ethical governance”, whilst addressing key issues it answered questions in the important area of the standards framework. This provided delegates with the learning and practical resource platforms needed to improve and promote standards and local democracy within their authority.

Mr Bates, vice chair, has expressed an interest for the Committee to debate issues that have arisen from the Conference and in particular those surrounding local assessment and learning.

His suggested items for discussion are attached at Appendix 1.

WALSALL MBC STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Suggested items for discussion:

- (1) At the 2009 Annual Assembly of Standards Committees there appeared a wide variety of interpretations in respect of dealing with local assessments.

“The Standards Committee are asked to review the composition of sub committees in order to deal more effectively with conflicts of interest and when and how to issue decision notices and case summaries”.

- (2) The Standards Committee are asked to consider their views on **learning** in respect of:

- a) How does the Committee learn and develop itself?
- b) How does the Committee keep abreast of case law and effective practice?
- c) What is the view of the Committee in respect of attendance at Conferences and networks?
- d) Should there be formal reviews of the effectiveness of the Committee?
- e) Should there be performance reviews of the Standards Committee Members?