

CITY AND COUNTY OF CARDIFF DINAS A SIR CAERDYDD

STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE:

23 MARCH 2010

REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER AGENDA ITEM: 6

STANDARDS CONFERENCE WALES 2010

Reason for this Report

1. To enable the Committee to commence suitable arrangements for hosting of the Standards Conference Wales 2010.

Background

2. Upon the request of this Committee, Cardiff Council successfully hosted the Standards Conference Wales 2009 in Cardiff City Hall on 15th October 2009; and the Council has volunteered once again to host this year's conference.
3. The Committee considered a report giving feedback from last year's conference at its meeting in November 2009, and resolved to take account of the same during preparations for this year's conference.
4. It was noted that Cardiff City Hall has been provisionally booked for this year's conference on Thursday 14th October 2010.

Issues

5. In considering suitable arrangements for hosting of the Standards Conference Wales 2010, the Committee is able to draw upon its experience from hosting last year's conference to inform its planning process.
6. Members will recall that last year's conference was on the theme of 'Wales: An Ethical Country'; and the aim of the conference was to reinforce the importance of the Members' Code of Conduct and to clearly bring out the connection between good conduct, good governance and excellent service delivery. For this year's conference, members may wish to consider a more practical emphasis on the application of the Code, focussing on the new Guidance on the Code issued by the Ombudsman.
7. It has also been suggested that the Committee may wish to give any other interested local authorities the opportunity to contribute their views

and ideas into the conference planning process. This could be achieved by way of an email circular and or discussion at the Monitoring Officers' ACSeS (Association of Council Secretaries and Solicitors) meeting.

8. Discussions concerning the arrangements for last year's conference were delegated to a Task and Finish Group of the Committee, which met in March 2009. The Task and Finish Group discussed the conference theme, venue, suggested speakers and workshops, delegates to be invited, and evening reception and tour. The Monitoring Officer and her staff then put in hand the necessary arrangements, with assistance from other appropriate Council staff, such as the Council's Events team; and regularly reported back to the Committee.
9. The Committee is invited to set up a Task and Finish Group to consider arrangements for the Standards Conference Wales 2010, with a progress report then to be made at the next Committee meeting.

ADVICE

This report has been prepared by the Monitoring and City and County Solicitor. It contains all the information necessary to allow Members to arrive at a reasonable view, taking into account the advice contained in this section.

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is recommended to set up a Task and Finish Group to consider arrangements for the Standards Conference Wales 2010, and report back on progress to the next Committee meeting.

Kate Berry

Monitoring Officer and City and County Solicitor

12 March 2010

Background papers

Report to the Standards & Ethics Committee, 17th November 2009, 'Standards Conference Wales - Feedback' (and minutes thereof)