

Fringe events

Fringe events are run independently of the main conference programme, by a range of bodies from the local government family. These sessions are optional, but cover topics of key interest to delegates.

The following fringe events took place at the Fifth Annual Assembly of Standards Committees on Monday 16 October 2006.

Achieving excellence in local filtering: monitoring officers' perspectives

Hosted by the Association of Council Secretaries and Solicitors (ACSeS)

Perspectives from a monitoring officer in favour of local filtering and a monitoring officer against local filtering. ACSeS' Policy and Development Officer looked at what the future might hold in terms of ethical governance. The session was interactive and discussed the practical and legal implications of the new ethical governance arrangements.

Speakers: Mirza Ahmad, Monitoring Officer, Birmingham City Council, and Lead Officer, ACSeS
Kirsty Cole, Assistant Chief Executive, Newark and Sherwood District Council, and President, ACSeS
Anthony Kilner, Policy and Development Officer, ACSeS
Ian Marshall, Monitoring Officer, Wychavon District Council

Independent members gaining a voice

Hosted by the Association of Independent members of Standards Committees in England (AIMSce)

AIMSce is being established as a professional body to provide peer group support, champion the role of independent members and represent their interests. The government is proposing that chairs of standards committees are independent members. The need for collective representation and a powerful voice is therefore evident.

Speakers: Bruce Claxton, Chair of Standards Committee, Isle of Wight Council
Peter Rowland, Independent Member, South Shropshire District Council

The ethical governance toolkit – how does your authority measure up?

Hosted by the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA)

The ethical governance toolkit helps determine:

- how councils are meeting the ethical agenda
- where they can make improvements

This session addressed:

- what the toolkit is
- what are the benefits?
- how does it work?
- materials available on the website
- deciding what tools to use
- costs
- contacts
- future developments
- the story so far — a toolkit client's perspective
- questions

Speakers: Gary Hickey, Research and Practice Manager, The Standards Board for England
Alison Kelly, National Lead – Governance Audit, Audit Commission
Phil McCourt, Head of Legal Services, Milton Keynes Council
Paul Roberts, Director of Strategy, Information and Development, IDeA
Vanessa Walker, Local Government Consultant, IDeA

The future of local community governance and standards

Hosted by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC)

A discussion around the ethical framework of different models of community governance, chaired by John Findlay, Chief Executive, NALC.

Speakers: Dr Alan Lawton, Reader in Public Policy and Management, School of Public Policy, Birmingham University
Tony Smith, Policy Development Team, Birmingham City Council

Leadership and governance and the Lyons Inquiry proposals

Hosted by the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers (SOLACE)

A discussion forum based on the key role for effective leadership and governance at all levels, especially at local level, as proposed by the Lyons Inquiry.

Speakers: Ruth Hyde, Chief Executive, Broxtowe Borough Council
Claer Lloyd-Jones, Partner, Rockpools
Sir Michael Lyons, The Lyons Inquiry
