

Effective Standards Committees

"Effective Standards Committees" draws on examples of good practice across the country. Members would be invited to examine the advantages and disadvantages of different strategies and consider an action plan for their own committee.

Part 1

- Presentation covering the following topics:
- Outline of the ethical framework and recent developments
- Why should Standards Committee be proactive?
- Auditing ethical standards awareness
- Raising the profile of the Standards Committee – developing an internal communications strategy
- Raising the profile of ethical standards – engaging the public
- Working with senior officers and members – member/officer protocols
- Responding to high profile complaints
- Promoting greater understanding of the Code of Conduct
- The role of the Governance Champion
- Standards and governance – complaints, Ombudsman cases, scrutiny, audit committees and the Governance Statement, constitutional change
- Standards and whistleblowing
- Standards and partnerships
- Measuring your effectiveness

We encourage participants to ask questions as the presentation is progressing.

Part 2 - Part 2 involves facilitated group work

Groups are asked to consider three or four scenarios: the apathetic authority, the struggling authority, the engaged authority and (if appropriate) parish council problems. They will discuss and evaluate a number of suggested initiatives for each authority and assess the barriers and success factors in each scenario.

Following a short plenary discussion, delegates will be invited to prepare action plans for their own authorities.