

SUBJECT:	Subscription to Standards Exchange
REPORT OF:	Monitoring Officer
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Joanna Swift
REPORT AUTHOR	Joanna Swift
WARD/S AFFECTED	None

1. Purpose of Report

This report considers the use of the on-line Standards Exchange services over the past year and the benefits of continued membership

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council renew its membership of the Standards Exchange for the forthcoming year.

2. Reasons for Recommendations

Standards Exchange is the only independent source of information and training on local government standards issues currently available and provides a valuable resource, particularly on training for Independent Persons, for a reasonably low annual subscription fee.

3. Content of Report

- 3.1 The Council has subscribed to this on-line service for Independent Persons, monitoring officers and members of committees responsible for standards issues for the past 2 years. Members will recall that Standards Exchange provides an interactive forum, news on local and national standards issues, shares good practice, highlights events and provides training materials. The annual subscription fee is £300 and this gives unlimited access to both members and officers
- 3.2 In the absence of the advice and guidance previously provided nationally by Standards for England, Standards Exchange continues to be the only website providing specialist independent assistance and guidance on standards issues. The monitoring officer has used precedents published on Standards Exchange and together with the Independent Person, taken advantage of their reasonably-priced training events tailored specifically for local government. The on-line Forum also provides a useful opportunity to receive and share best practice.

4. Consultation

Not applicable

5. Options

The Council has the option of cancelling the subscription to Standards Exchange and making a small financial saving or renewing for a further year.

6. Corporate Implications

Financial – The cost of subscription for 1 year is £300

Legal – As set out in the report

Risks issues – None

Equalities - None

7. Links to Council Policy Objectives

There is no direct link to the Council’s objectives but the Council has a statutory obligation to adopt a maintain high standards of conduct amongst it’s members and this subscription supports that objective.

8. Next Steps

If the Committee agrees to renew this subscription, details about the service will be circulated to all members of the Audit Committee.

Background	None
Papers:	