

DRAFT PROPOSAL

Swindon Standards Conference / Workshop 'STANDARDS IN PARTNERSHIP'

Purpose:	<p>For the Council and its partners to develop a common understanding of the ethical framework applied to our activities and to carry out a base-lining exercise on how respective ethical standards compare.</p> <p>To gain a common appreciation of how standards of performance and efficiency rely upon standards of behaviour and conduct.</p>
Background	<p>With the growth in partnership and joint working and with a growth in commissioned services, it is increasingly important for organisations to understand and be able to work in line with each other's legal requirements in terms of ethical behaviour, codes of conduct and governance.</p> <p>This has been recognised by the Standards Board for England and one of the sessions at their Seventh Annual Assembly in October 2008 will examine the results from the Standards Board and the University of Manchester assessing the accountability gap in partnerships and joint working.</p> <p>Swindon is on the front line of joint working, include the integration of Council and the Primary Care Trust, with a successful Swindon Strategic Partnership Board (SSPB), the strategic partnership with Capita, and with commissioning of services with other public agencies, businesses and the voluntary sector.</p> <p>This is a key moment to bring partners round the table, to begin to lead the work to develop a shared understanding of probity issues for all the respective organisations, with a long-term view to collaborate on Standards issues within the Borough, to ensure that standards of performance are supported by strong governance and probity, and to be confident that partnerships have clear governance accountabilities, including effective and equitable financial arrangements.</p>
Date:	Date to be identified in September / November 2008
Place:	To be determined based on numbers expected to attend
Invitations to attend to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Swindon Standards Committee- Swindon Strategic Partnership Board - Up to 2 delegates from each organisation.- Swindon Borough Councillors- Parish Councils – Up to 2 delegates from each organisation.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Swindon Compact – Up to 2 delegates from each organisation. - Corporate Board / Directors and other relevant Officers - Chairs of School Heads Associations in Swindon - Capita – Swindon Partnership Officers - Representative from Thamesdown Transport and Stagecoach – Up to 2 delegates - Representative from New Swindon Company – Up to 2 delegates - Other appropriate delegates (to be identified by the Swindon Standards Committee or the Swindon Strategic Partnership Board)
Programme for the Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Speaker – Standards Board Senior Representative / or other speaker prominent in this field mirroring the Session provided at the Standards Assembly – on assessing the accountability gap in partnerships and joint working. - Presentation on Best Practice from another Council (if one can be identified) which has an example of shared standards processes or good partnership working in the area of probity. - Pop-Up Session - Opportunity for 5 or 6 of the partners representatives to make a few brief points on the standards processes governing their organisation (ie could include Council / PCT / Police / Fire / Swindon Compact), to set the scene for the following workshop sessions. - Workshop sessions – consideration of 1 or 2 steps to improving collaboration and understand of each others ways of working. To be developed into an action plan after the event.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased knowledge of the probity issues affecting organisations working in partnership. - Confidence that partnerships have clear governance accountabilities, including effective and equitable financial arrangements - A matrix of the legislative and local imperatives that govern organisations and ideas arising from presentations and workshop sessions on how to improve standards in partnership.