



AGENDA ITEM: 7

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE:
1 November 2006**

Report of: Council Secretary and Solicitor

Contact for further information: Mrs G L Rowe (Ext 5004)

SUBJECT: ANNUAL STANDARDS BOARD CONFERENCE

District wide interest

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To receive a report on the Standards Board Conference held on Monday, 16 and Tuesday, 17 October 2006 in Birmingham.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the contents of the report be noted.
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3.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 The Standards Board Conference was held in Birmingham on Monday 16 and Tuesday 17 October 2006. A copy of the programme is attached at Appendix 1. It was most disappointing that the revised Code had not been issued and therefore could not be handled at the Conference. Useful sessions were however held on the anticipated changes and on the proposed local filter from 2008.
- 3.2 A copy of Patricia Hughes' speech is attached at Appendix 2. The BMG research on Standards Committees was presented to the Conference and a copy of the key findings are attached at Appendix 3. Some useful, if confusing, screens on the potential revisions to the Code are also attached at Appendix 4.

4.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 4.1 There are no substantial sustainability/community strategy implications arising from this report.

5.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no financial and resource implications arising from this report.

6.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 Regular attendance at the Conference means that officers and Members keep up to date with ethical issues for the Council and also this year be better placed to address the current imminent legislative changes.

Background Documents

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

Equality Impact Assessment

There is no evidence from an initial assessment of an adverse impact on equality in relation to the equality target groups.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Programme

Appendix 2 – Bridging the Gap : towards strategic regulation – Patricia Hughes,
Deputy Chair

Appendix 3 – Standards Committee : a national snapshot

Appendix 4 – The Revised Code???