



AGENDA ITEM: 9

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE:
1 November 2007**

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, 15 and Tuesday, 16 October 2007 in Birmingham.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the contents of the report be noted, particularly the current position in relation to 'local filter'.

3.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 The Standards Board Conference was held in Birmingham on Monday 15 and Tuesday 16 October 2007. A copy of the programme is attached at Appendix 1.
- 3.2 Members will find at Appendices 2 and 3 copies of the keynote speeches by David Prince and Patricia Hughes of the Standards Board. Copies of these speeches have been provided to Members of the Cabinet, Operational Management Board, the Lawyers and Member Services Officers.

3.3 Members may also find of interest the key findings of the Audit Commission self assessment survey of ethical governance 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, although it is important to note that the introduction of the local filter will have significant resource implications.

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 will 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 – ‘Evolving Standards’ – David Prince

Appendix 3 – ‘Local Filter – Countdown to 2008’ – Patricia Hughes

Appendix 4 – Stronger action needed on ethical governance