

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE REPORT – 25<sup>th</sup> March 2010**  
**Ethical Governance Action Plan**

**Agenda Item 5**

**Background Papers:** Survey Results – Standards Committee 10<sup>th</sup> December 2009  
**Corporate Implications:** Please refer to table at end of report  
**Options:** None arising directly from this report

**Risks:** None arising directly from this report

### **Executive Summary**

Ethical governance forms a significant part of the wider system of corporate governance and concerns the processes and procedures, cultures and values which ensure high standards of behaviour. A key benefit of good ethical governance is that a council which gets its rules and relationships right in an ethical sense is more likely to be effective in helping to improve the quality of life of its residents.

The Standards Committee considered the results of the survey at their meeting in December and a draft action plan has been prepared based on those results. The responses indicate that Members have a good grasp of the Code of Conduct, the action they need to take in relation to a personal and prejudicial interest and a good understanding of the role of the Standards Committee. The results are very encouraging and demonstrate that good ethical standards are considered important and valued by our Members. The ensuing action plan reflects this and is aimed at the ongoing promotion of the work of the Standards Committee and making preparations for the induction programme that Members will have to complete following the District Elections in the spring of 2011.

### **Decision**

To agree the action plan.

<b>Corporate Implications</b>	
<b>Financial:</b>	None
<b>Legal:</b>	The Local Government Act 2000 as amended requires local authorities to establish a standards committee to promote and maintain high standards of conduct and to deal with allegations relating to breaches of the Code of Conduct.
<b>Equalities &amp; Diversity:</b>	Any issues are addressed within the report
<b>Customer Impact:</b>	The decision is intended to promote public confidence in local democracy
<b>Environment &amp; Climate Change:</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Consultation/Community Engagement:</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Key Decision:</b>	No
<b>Public/Private Report:</b>	Public
<b>Officer Contact:</b>	Sharon Lowe
<b>Designation:</b>	Monitoring Officer
<b>Ext No:</b>	2629
<b>Email:</b>	Sharon.lowe@braintree.gov.uk

## ETHICAL GOVERNANCE ACTION PLAN 2010

Action	Lead	Target Date
Continue to raise the profile of the Standards Committee and the local standards framework with regular articles in the Democracy Counts Newsletter	Monitoring Officer	On-going throughout 2010/11
Review contents of website to ensure that information on the Standards Committee and the Code of Conduct exists in only one place and is to find	Deputy Monitoring Officer	31 <sup>st</sup> July 2010
Use the results of the audit to develop the ethical governance element of the induction programme that will be implemented post the 2011 District Elections	Member Services Manager	31 <sup>st</sup> January 2011