



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Northern Ireland Economic Conference 2011
Date:	14 September 2011
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
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1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The 16 th Annual Northern Ireland Economic conference takes place in the Culloden Hotel on 4 October 2011. The theme for this year's conference is "Rebuilding and Rebalancing". This mirrors the focus of the draft economic strategy issued by the Northern Ireland Assembly earlier this year.

2	Key issues
2.1	The conference programme provides a varied and interesting range of inputs from a number of eminent presenters. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Neil Gibson, Oxford Economics- Robert Chote, Office for Budget Responsibility- Tom Barrett, European Investment Bank- Mike Smyth, University of Ulster- Andrew Sissons, The Work Foundation.
2.2	A full conference programme is attached for members' information. It includes an assessment of the economic outlook for Northern Ireland; consideration of the Northern Ireland economy in the wider context and a discussion session of the key themes for rebuilding and rebalancing the economy.
2.3	The conference is generally well attended and includes representatives from key statutory agencies, research institutes and universities, economists, economic development representatives, senior business managers and elected politicians.
2.4	Participation in the event costs £165 + VAT per person for local government representatives. It is proposed that it would be useful for the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Development Committee (or their nominees) to attend this conference along with 2 officers.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	<u>Financial</u> Delegate fee of £165 + VAT per person. Cost for attendance by Chair and Deputy Chair and two officers is £660 + VAT.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	No specific equality or good relations implications to this report.

5	Recommendations
5.1	Members are asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Note the 16th annual Northern Ireland Economic Conference which takes place on 4 October 2011. - Agree to participation at the event by the Chair and Deputy Chair of Development Committee (or nominees) and 2 officers at a cost of £660 + VAT.

6	Decision Tracking
No decision tracking attached to this report.	

7	Attachments
Appendix 1 – Draft conference programme	