



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Health and Environmental Services Committee
Subject:	Nomination of a Member for the Post of Vice-President of the Association of Port Health Authorities
Date:	5th November, 2008
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Relevant Background Information

Belfast Port is one of the busiest in the UK handling large numbers of passengers and freight. Last year the Port received over 6000 vessels and moved approximately 17.5m tonnes of goods with a value of £21bn. The Port of Belfast is Northern Ireland's principal maritime gateway handling about 60% of Northern Ireland's seaborne trade and 20% of the entire island's.

Members will be aware of the essential work carried out by the Council's Port Health Unit to protect public health by ensuring the safety of imported food, controlling infectious disease and ensuring hygiene on ships. These activities also extend to the George Best Belfast City Airport.

Belfast City Council is a corporate member of the Association of Port Health Authorities (APHA). The Association is made up of a total of 69 UK authorities and members work together to share their expertise and best practice to deliver consistent and effective port health services across the UK. The Association liaises with government, trade and international bodies, contributing significantly to national and international policy development. It also plays an important role, through its technical committees, in keeping its members up to date with all legislation and guidance.

Belfast City Council has, through nominated Elected Members and Officers, played a major role in the governance of APHA, serving as members of The Executive Board, The Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the various technical committees. Councillor, Dr Ian Adamson is currently serving on the elected Executive Board which directs the Association.

Key Issues

The Association of Port Health Authorities is fronted by a President and a Vice-President (President Elect) who must be Elected Representatives from one of the corporate member organisations, such as Belfast City Council. The duties of the President and Vice President include:

- Presiding over general meetings and other events;
- Communicating with the media and others to promote the Association;
- Acting as an ex-officio member of the Executive Board
- Acting as a Director of the Association

The Vice President serves for one year, after which he/she becomes President. The President also serves for one year and during that year his/her Authority has the opportunity to host the Association's annual conference.

Within the Association the position of Vice President is currently vacant and Belfast City Council has been invited to forward a nominee for consideration at APHAs next Executive Board Meeting on 10 December 2008.

The elected Vice President is expected, if available, to attend the four meetings of the Executive Board for the current year. It is also expected that the following year, the Vice President would become President and would again be required to attend the four meetings of the Board. Meetings are held in the City of London. Attendance at other events is at the Member's discretion.

Resource Implications

Approximately £1,500 per year for travel and subsistence (based on 4 meetings per annum).

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee nominates one Member to go forward for election as the Vice President of the Association of Port Health Authorities.

Documents Attached

None