



Belfast City Council

Report to: Health and Environmental Services Committee

Subject: **National Community Safety Network Annual Conference**

Date: 12th April, 2010

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Relevant Background Information

The National Community Safety Network (NCSN) Annual Conference takes place this year from 15th-17th June in the Waterfront Hall, Belfast. This event facilitates the sharing of good practice across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland around community safety issues. The overall theme of the conference is "Community Safety in Changing Times" and key topics for consideration include:

- Community Cohesion and Engagement;
- Public Confidence and Ownership;
- Violent Crime;
- Anti-Social Behaviour;
- Domestic Abuse;
- Restorative Justice;
- Race & Diversity;
- Road Safety.

The conference aims to encourage debate via interactive workshops and site visits which will challenge delegates to learn from each other and collaborate on tried and tested solutions to national community safety issues.

Key Issues

The NCSN is the leading practitioner-led organisation supporting those involved in promoting community safety/crime reduction throughout the United Kingdom. It has just under 400 organisational and individual members in the public, private and voluntary sectors, all with a common interest in promoting safer communities. The conference is an opportunity to share good practice between UK Community Safety Partnerships, Local Authorities, Police and other partners.

The conference, which will bring significant profile and an economic benefit to Belfast, also offers an opportunity to showcase the work ongoing in our city and as such the following has been arranged:

- The Lord Mayor will be hosting a civic dinner for delegates and key partners on the evening of 16th June;
- Belfast City Council will have a keynote speaker at the opening of the event;
- Belfast Community Safety Partnership (CSP) will be hosting a number of workshops for delegates to attend at the conference;
- The District Policing Partnership (DPP) and CSP will have a public presence in the information zones situated throughout the conference;
- Belfast will be hosting 5 site visits, in the city centre, north, south, east and west Belfast in order to showcase our work to create a safer city.

As the Council is a lead partner in both the CSP and DPP, it is suggested that Elected Members would find the event of interest and use; particularly in light of the current review of CSPs and DPPs.

Resource Implications

Financial

The NIO Community Safety Unit currently provides funding to support the attendance of members of the community safety team staff.

The anticipated cost of attendees is outlined below.

Delegate fee including conference dinner = £479 pp

There is sufficient allowance within the Service's Revenue Estimates to accommodate the attendance of up to four elected Members.

Human Resources

There are no additional human resource implications. The Community Safety and DPP teams will provide briefings to Elected Representatives wishing to attend if required.

Asset and Other Implications

N/A

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to:

- Agree to the attendance of the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman, or their nominees, at the National Community Safety Network Annual Conference on 15th -17th June 2010; and
- Consider whether to approve the attendance of an additional two Members.