



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Attendance at the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management Learning Convention and Exhibition
Date:	11 August 2011
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Sharon McCloy, Cemeteries and Crematorium Manager

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The annual conference held by the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM) has over the last few years moved towards becoming more of an educational event, designed to equip delegates with ideas on how they can improve their respective services. As a result the title of conference has been replaced by the title learning convention and exhibition from 2011.
1.2	The learning convention and exhibition will take place from 3 – 5 October 2011 at the Chesford Grange Hotel, Kenilworth, Warwickshire. Attendance at this event allows councillors and officers to keep up to date with developments in the funeral services industry and make contacts with other authorities and service providers learning from their expert knowledge and experience.

2	Key Issues
2.1	This year's learning convention and exhibition will focus on the problems currently being faced by the UK burial and cremation authorities as they cope with reduced budgets and financial restrictions and will explore innovative ways of improving services whilst faced with ever decreasing resources.
2.2	Through a series of papers, break-out groups and via the exhibition information will be provided that delegates can take back and utilize in their workplaces. As the providers of the only cremation service and busiest cemetery in Northern Ireland, it is important to keep up to date with developments in the industry and changes in legislation. Attendance at this learning convention and exhibition will enable the council to do this and to

	also make contacts with other local authorities and private sector providers to ensure that appropriate standards and working practices are being applied in Belfast. A copy of the conference flyer is attached at Appendix 1.
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3	Resource Implications
3.1	<u>Financial</u> The ICCM learning convention and exhibition fee including 2 nights accommodation is £495.00 per delegate. The flights and transport to the venue will be approximately £150 per delegate.
3.2	<u>Human Resources</u> A member of staff will be away from site for 3 days however they will be bringing back updated information and knowledge to provide appropriate briefings.

4	Equality Implications
4.1	None

5	Recommendations
5.1	It is recommended that the Chairman and Deputy Chair of Parks & Leisure Committee or their nominees and the Director of Parks & Leisure or his nominee attend the ICCM Learning Convention and Exhibition from 3 – 5 October 2011.

6	Decision Tracking
Actions to be completed by the Cemeteries & Crematorium Manager by the end of October 2011.	

7	Key to Abbreviations
ICCM: Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management.	

8	Documents Attached
Appendix 1: Learning Convention and Exhibition Flyer	