



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Date:	Friday, 22nd August, 2008
Subject:	National Association of Councillors (NI Region) Annual Conference and Annual General Meeting and the Local Authority Members' Association Annual Winter Seminar
Reporting Officer:	Mr. Liam Steele, Head of Committee and Members' Services (extension 6325)
Contact Officer:	Mrs. Julie Lilley, Members' Liaison Officer (extension 6321)

Relevant Background Information

The National Association of Councillors (NI Region) is holding its Annual Conference and Annual General Meeting in the Canal Court Hotel, Newry from Friday, 12th until Saturday, 13th September.

The keynote address at the conference will be made by the Minister with responsibility for the Department of the Environment. The conference theme this year is '2009 and Beyond' and a significant number of key politicians and decision-makers directly involved with the implementation of the Review of Public Administration are expected to attend.

The Local Authority Members' Association is holding its Annual Winter Seminar in Castlebar, County Mayo from Friday, 28th until Saturday, 29th November. The conference programme is relevant to all Members serving in Local Government across the island of Ireland.

The Council has been represented at both events in previous years. Those Members who have attended have found each of the events to be a valuable opportunity to increase their awareness of Members' issues and to discuss with other Councillors issues of mutual interest and concern.

Key Issues

The business of both Conferences falls within the criteria set out in Section 38 of the 1972 Local Government (Northern Ireland) Act in that it involves issues connected with the discharge of the functions of the Council and/or affecting the district or its inhabitants.

Resource Implications	
National Association of Councillors AGM	
Delegate Fee:	£190
Accommodation Costs:	£70
Travel:	£37
	——
Total per delegate:	£297
Local Authority Members' Association Annual Winter Seminar	
Delegate Fee:	£125
Accommodation Costs:	£160
Travel:	£180
	——
Total per delegate:	£465

Recommendations
<p>It is recommended that the Committee agrees to authorise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the attendance at the National Association of Councillors Annual Conference and AGM and the Local Authority Members' Association Annual Winter Seminar of the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman, the Council's representatives on the National Association of Councillors (NI Region), the Head of Committee and Members' Services (or their nominees) and a representative of each of the Party Groupings on the Council not represented by the aforementioned Members; and ▪ the payment of the appropriate travelling and subsistence allowances in connection therewith.

Key to Abbreviations
N/A

Documents Attached
N/A