



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Date:	Friday, 7th August, 2009
Subject:	National Association of Councillors (NI Region) Annual General Meeting and Conference
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 General Meeting and Conference in the La Mon Hotel and Country Club, Belfast from Friday, 25th until Saturday, 26th September.

The Minister with responsibility for the Department of the Environment has been invited to attend the Conference to deliver the keynote address. It is expected also that a significant number of key politicians and decision-makers directly involved with the implementation of the Review of Public Administration will be in attendance. Given the pace at which the implementation of the Review of Public Administration is progressing, it is important that Members are afforded the opportunity, presented by attendance at the Conference, to meet with their fellow Councillors and learn of new developments and initiatives.

The Council has been represented at the event in previous years and those Members who have attended have found the Conference 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 the Conference 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
Travel:	£17
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Total per delegate:	£207

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee agrees to authorise:

- the attendance at the National Association of Councillors Annual Conference and AGM 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.

Decision Tracking

Mr Liam Steele, Head of Committee and Members' Services, will organise registration of delegates as appropriate before 14th September, 2009.

Key to Abbreviations

N/A

Documents Attached

N/A