



## Belfast City Council

Report to:	<b>Strategic Policy and Resources Committee</b>
Date:	<b>Friday, 9th October, 2009</b>
Subject:	<b>National Association of Councillors - Annual Conference</b>
Reporting Officer:	<b>Mr. Liam Steele, Head of Committee and Members' Services (extension 6325)</b>
Contact Officer:	<b>Mrs. Julie Lilley, Members' Liaison Officer (extension 6321)</b>

### Relevant Background Information

The National Association of Councillors is holding its Annual Conference in Glasgow from Friday, 13th until Sunday, 15th November.

The theme of this years conference is 'Local Government – The Recession and Beyond'. The conference will consider the vast array of challenges Local Government has faced and continues to face as a result of the current economic climate. Consideration will also be given to the key role which Local Government has to play to make sure that local people, communities and businesses are in a position to benefit when the economy begins to recover.

The Council has been represented at the conference in previous years and those Members who have attended have found the event to be a valuable opportunity to increase their awareness of best practice in Local Government 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****Estimated Cost of Attendance at the National Association of Councillors AGM**

Delegate Fee:	£350
Accommodation:	£130
Travel:	£100
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Total per delegate:	£580

**Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Committee agrees to authorise:

- the attendance at the National Association of Councillors Annual Conference 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 arrange for the attendance of delegates as appropriate before 3rd November, 2009.

**Key to Abbreviations**

N/A

**Documents Attached**

N/A