



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Northern Ireland Local Government Association Annual Conference 2010
Date:	22 nd January, 2010
Reporting Officer:	Mr. Liam Steele, Head of Committee and Members' Services (extension 6325)
Contact Officer:	Mr Kevin Heaney (extension 6202)

1.0	<u>Relevant Background Information</u>
1.1	As Members will be aware the Northern Ireland Local Government Association is holding its Annual Conference from 18 th till 19 th February 2010 in the Slieve Donard Hotel. The theme of the conference is 'Delivering Change – A Local Government for Tomorrow'
1.2	At its meeting on the 11 th December 2009, the Committee authorised the attendance of the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman and the Head of Committee and Members' Services (or their nominees), as well as the Council's representatives on the Association.
2.0	<u>Key Issues</u>
2.1	Given the focus and content of the conference, it is suggested that in addition to Members attendance it would be beneficial for an appropriate number of relevant senior officers to attend the event to enable them to engage in the debate around the future of Local Government and consider any associated organisational consequences. Officer attendance will be based on the completion of a business case in line with the Council's Staff Travel Policy.
2.2	<p>Members will note that the Chief Executive has been notified (copy of correspondence received is attached at Appendix 1) that the Council has been shortlisted as finalists in the following Local Government Award categories.</p> <p>Category 1: Best Local Authority Service Team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Community Safety <p>Category 8: Best Sustainable Development Initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Lord Mayor's Big Clean Up <p>Category 9: Best Improvement Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Building Control Partnership;▪ Ulster Hall redevelopment
2.3	A Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony has been arranged for the evening of the 18 th February 2010 and the Council has been provided two complementary places per category shortlisted. It is suggested that the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the relevant Committees (i.e. Development Committee and the Health and Environmental Services Committee) may wish to attend the Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony.

3.0 Resource Implications

Northern Ireland Local Government Association Conference

Delegate Fee: £200

Hotel Accommodation: £90

Total Per Delegate: £290

Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony: £45.00 per person (in addition to complimentary places provided)

4.0 Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee agrees to:

- i) authorise the attendance at the NILGA Annual Conference of a limited number of relevant officers based on a business case being completed in line with the Council's Travel Policy;
- ii) note that the Council has been shortlisted as finalists for four projects in the Local Government Awards; and
- iii) authorise the attendance of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the relevant Committees to the Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony.

5.0 Appendices

Appendix 1: Notification of Finalists for the Northern Ireland Local Government Awards