

Item No.



**Belfast City Council**

Report to:	<b>Strategic Policy and Resources Committee</b>
Date:	<b>Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2011</b>
Subject:	<b>National Association of Councillors - The Localism Bill and Big Society Conference</b>
Reporting Officer:	<b>Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager (ext. 6314)</b>
Contact Officer:	<b>Julie Lilley, Democratic Services Officer (ext. 6321)</b>

#### **Relevant Background Information**

The National Association of Councillors (English Region) is holding a weekend Training Conference in Scarborough from Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> until Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> April.

The theme of the conference is 'The Localism Bill and Big Society'. The conference will focus on the challenges faced by Local Government in responding effectively to the needs of local communities and the impact the Big Society policy intervention will have on the community and voluntary sectors. Delegates will participate in a series of interactive workshops and will be presented with training certificates on completion of the training conference.

Eric Pickles MP and Secretary of State has been invited to address the Conference and other speakers will include representatives from the Emergency Services, National Bodies and the Westminster administration.

The Council has been represented at such events in previous years and those Members who have attended have found the events to be valuable opportunities 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:	£220
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Total per delegate:	£700

**Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Committee agrees to authorise:

- the attendance at the National Association of Councillors Training Conference of the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman, the Council's representatives on the National Association of Councillors (NI Region), the Democratic Services Manager and (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**

Officer responsible:

Mr Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manger

March 2011

**Key to Abbreviations**

N/A

**Documents Attached**

N/A