



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Local Authorities Members Association – Spring Seminar
Date:	Friday, 17th February, 2012
Reporting Officer:	Mr. Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager (extension 6314)
Contact Officer:	Ms. Kate McCafferty, Democratic Services Assistant (extension 6308)

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The Local Authorities Members Association (LAMA) is holding its Spring Seminar in Waterford, County Waterford from Friday 13th to Saturday 14th April.
1.2	The theme of the Seminar is 'The Role of Local Authorities in Enabling Economic Development'. Expert speakers at the Seminar will include Michael Walsh, Waterford City Manager, Ann-Marie Caulfield, President of Waterford Chamber of Commerce and Sinead Carr, Director of Services, South Tipperary County Council.
1.3	The Council has been represented at LAMA events for a number of years and representatives attending previous Seminars have felt that their attendance gave them a valuable opportunity to meet with Local Government Representatives from throughout Ireland to discuss issues of mutual interest and concern. The theme of this year's Seminar is particularly relevant given the current economic climate.

2	Key Issues
2.1	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.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>Delegate Fee: £170 Accommodation Costs: £ 92 Travel: £270 Subsistence: £190 ----- Total per delegate: £722</p>

4	Equality Implications
	N/A

5	Recommendations
5.1	<p>It is recommended that the Committee authorises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the attendance at the LAMA Spring Seminar of the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman, the Council's representatives on the National Association of Councillors, Northern Ireland Region, the Democratic Services Manager (or their nominees) and a representative of each of the Parties on the Council not represented by the aforementioned Members; and ▪ the payment of the appropriate travelling and subsistence allowances in connection therewith.

6	Decision Tracking
<p>Officers responsible:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mrs. Julie Lilley, Democratic Services Officer.</p> <p>March, 2012</p>	