



<b>Report to:</b>	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Northern Ireland Local Government Association Conference, Exhibition and Awards Ceremony
<b>Date:</b>	23 November 2012
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Ronan Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Kevin Heaney (Ext. 6202)

<b>1.0</b>	<b><u>Relevant Background Information</u></b>
1.1	The Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) will be holding its Annual Conference and Exhibition on Thursday 28 February 2013 in the Everglades Hotel, Derry/Londonderry. Similar to previous years the event will incorporate also the Local Government Awards.
<b>2.0</b>	<b><u>Key Issues</u></b>
	<b><i>NILGA Conference and Exhibition</i></b>
2.1	The theme of this year's NILGA Annual conference is " <i>Jobs and People First! Economic Growth Through LOCAL Economies</i> ". The aim of the conference is to showcase and advocate the roles and future roles of community centred, effective and innovative councils in Northern Ireland. The event will also seek to encourage the sector to be pioneering in their delivery of the local government reform agenda, whilst keeping a key focus on the efficient delivery of quality services to citizens and sustaining local economies. A draft programme for the event is attached at Appendix 1.
2.2	Council attendance at the NILGA conference is normally opened to the Chairman, the Deputy Chair of the Council's Strategic Policy and Resources, Members who are represented on NILGA and Chief Officers (or their nominees).
2.3	<p><b><i>Local Government Awards</i></b></p> <p>The Local Government Awards will be held in the evening of the event and seek to recognise and showcase the best examples of service provision, new initiatives and outstanding commitment from councillors, councils and officers. The awards offer public recognition and award excellence for all those who shape and deliver front line local government services. The 2013 Awards cover seven categories including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) BEST LOCAL AUTHORITYSERVICE TEAM</li> <li>(ii) BEST INITIATIVE BY A COUNCILLOR / COUNCILLORS</li> <li>(iii) BEST SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE – Sustainable Economy</li> <li>(iv) HUMAN RESOURCE - SERVICES AWARD</li> <li>(v) BEST EUROPEAN FUNDED - LOCAL ENTERPRISE INITIATIVE</li> <li>(vi) BEST JOINT INITIATIVE</li> <li>(vii) EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR</li> </ul> <p>Appendix 2 sets out further details on each of the award categories. Council's are asked to submit proposed nominations for any of the award categories by Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2012.</p>

<b>3.0 Resource Implications</b>
Northern Ireland Local Government Association Annual Conference

Delegate Fee (including Awards Galla Dinner):	£149.00
Travel:	£100 (approx)
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	<b>£250 per delegate</b>

#### **4.0 Recommendations**


It is recommended that the Committee authorise the attendance at the NILGA Annual Conference and Exhibition of the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman, the Council's representatives on NILGA and the Chief Officers (or their nominees).

#### **5.0 Appendix**

**Appendix 1** Draft programme for event

**Appendix 2** Local Government Awards Application booklet

## APPENDIX 1

2013 NILGA ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION	
<p><b>“Jobs and People First! Economic Growth Through <u>LOCAL</u> Economies”</b></p> 	
<b>Thursday 28th February 2013, The Everglades Hotel, Derry ~ Londonderry</b>	
OPENING SESSION	
9.00 – 9.45	Registration and Refreshments
9.45 – 9.50	Welcome to Derry City
9.50 – 10.00	Conference Welcome and President's Address <i>Cllr Seán McPeake, NILGA President</i>
10.00 – 10.10	Sponsors address
SESSION ONE	
<i>Chair: Cllr Seán McPeake, NILGA President</i>	
10.10 - 10.30	VIP Address 1 - DoE NI
10.30 - 10.50	VIP Address 2 - DFP NI
10.50 – 11.10	Coffee break and exhibition
SESSION TWO - Investing in Local Government	
<i>Chair: NILGA Vice President</i>	
11.10 – 12.30	Panel debate with the Environment Committee 3 Key Issues discussed and debated with delegates. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning and small businesses – unlocking the potential</li> <li>• The Economy and the Historic Environment – NI's jewels</li> <li>• How will council and wider reform sustain local economies?</li> </ul>
	Questions and Answers Session
12.30 – 13.45	Lunch and Exhibition Fringe meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning for local communities;</li> <li>• Procurement / supporting local SME's (Invest NI / FSB session / NILGA Policy Resolutions)</li> <li>• Elected Member Development</li> </ul>
SESSION THREE - Investing in Communities	
<i>Chair: NILGA Vice President</i>	
13.45 – 15.00	The 3 Socials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Causes;</li> <li>• Procurement; and</li> <li>• Investment.</li> </ul>
	Neil McInroy, Chief Executive, Centre for Local Economic Studies
15.00 – 15.30	Coffee break and exhibition
SESSION FOUR - Investing in Northern Ireland	
<i>Chair: NILGA Vice President</i>	
15.30 – 16.45	Key note address Investing in Northern Ireland
	Panel debate: Councils, a source of regional investment growth
16.45 – 17.00	Conference close
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AWARDS 2012 - GALA DINNER & PRESENTATION	