



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland – Spring Seminar
<b>Date:</b>	Friday, 25th January, 2013
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Mr. Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager (extension 6314)
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Ms. Kate McCafferty, Democratic Services Assistant (extension 6308)

<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	The Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland (AMAI) is holding its Spring Seminar in New Ross, County Wexford from Friday, 15th to Saturday, 16th February.
1.2	The theme of the Seminar is 'Putting People First – Local Government Reform... Real or Imaginary?' Keynote speakers will include Des Dowling, Assistant Secretary in the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, Brian Cotter, Public Affairs and Business Development Director at the American Chamber of Commerce in Ireland and Councillor Joe Anderson, O.B.E., the first Directly Elected Mayor of Liverpool. Delegates at the Seminar will have an opportunity to explore and debate the benefits to be gained by actively involving communities in the decision making processes of Local Government.
1.3	The Council has been represented at AMAI events for a number of years and participants at previous events have felt that their attendance provided them with a valuable opportunity to meet with Local Government Representatives from throughout Ireland to discuss issues of mutual interest and concern.

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	The business of the Seminar falls within the criteria set out in Section 34 of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 in that it involves issues connected with the interests of the inhabitants of the district or any part of it.

<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>										
3.1	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <table> <tr> <td>Delegate Fee:</td> <td>£162</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Accommodation Costs:</td> <td>£160</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Travel:</td> <td>£283</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Subsistence:</td> <td>£160</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total per delegate:</td> <td><u>£765</u></td> </tr> </table>	Delegate Fee:	£162	Accommodation Costs:	£160	Travel:	£283	Subsistence:	£160	Total per delegate:	<u>£765</u>
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<b>4</b>	<b>Equality Implications</b>
	N/A

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

<b>6</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
<p>Officers responsible:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mr. Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager</p> <p>February 2013</p>	

<b>7</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
LAMA – Local Authority Members' Association	