



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Local Authority Members' Association – Spring Seminar
Date:	Friday, 22nd February, 2013
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 Authority Members' Association (LAMA) is holding its Spring Seminar in Gorey, County Wexford from Friday, 5th to Saturday, 6th April, 2013.
1.2	The theme of the Seminar is Local Authorities in Ireland – New Challenges New Opportunities. Keynote speakers will include Fergus O'Dowd, T.D. and RTE Regional Correspondent Damien Tiernan. Delegates at the Seminar will have an opportunity to explore and debate subjects such as health and safety in the workplace, challenges facing Local Councils and the opportunities for change which the upcoming reform to Local Government might present.
1.3	The Council has been represented at LAMA 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.

2	Key Issues
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.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>Delegate Fee: £170 Accommodation Costs: £120 Travel: £215</p> <p>Subsistence: £160</p> <p>Total per delegate: <u>£665</u></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 (or their nominees) and a representative of each of the Parties on the Council not represented by the aforementioned Members. ▪ the payment of the appropriate travelling and subsistence allowances in connection therewith.

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

7	Key to Abbreviations
LAMA – Local Authority Members' Association	