



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Town Planning Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Local Government: Planning the Future event 24 October 2012</b>
<b>Date:</b>	Thursday 4 October 2012
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Mrs Petra Scarborough, Democratic Services Section (ext 6003)

### Relevant Background Information

Notification has been received regarding a Royal Town Planning Institute event entitled 'Local Government: Planning the Future', which will take place in the Long Gallery, Stormont on Wednesday 24 October 2012 from 11.00 am until 2.00 pm.

### Key Issues

2015 will see eleven new Councils in Northern Ireland with planning powers for the first time since 1973. Responsibilities will include the preparation of local development plans, determining the majority of planning applications and taking enforcement action. This event has been designed to consider the implications of this for elected representatives and their relationship with planning officers, colleagues and constituents, and how those involved in planning committees can carry out their duties while building the confidence of the public in the system and their ability to make unbiased and sound planning decisions.

The event, which is being hosted by Simon Hamilton, MLA, will be chaired by Alderman Jim Dillon and speakers will include Minister Attwood, Ross Martin, Policy Director at the Centre for Scottish Public Policy and Colin Haylock, President of the Royal Town Planning Institute.

### Resource Implications

Attendance at the event will be £25.00 per person.

### Recommendations

It is recommended that the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Committee, together with the Democratic Services Manager, or their nominees, be authorised to attend the event.