



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Policy on Representation at National Association of Councillors Conferences/Seminars
Date:	14th March, 2008
Reporting Officer:	Mr. Stephen McCrory, Principal Committee Administrator
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Relevant Background Information

Members will be aware that attendance at events organised by the National Association of Councillors had previously been considered by the Members' Sub-Committee. Following the change to the Governance arrangements, attendance at these types of events is now normally considered by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

The usual recommendation is to request the Committee to approve the attendance of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, the Council's representatives on the National Association of Councillors (or their nominees) and a Member of each of the other Party Groupings not represented by the aforementioned Members.

However, on occasions, the National Association has held events, such as conferences on anti-social behaviour or community safety, where it has been felt that it was more appropriate for other Committees to consider the representation and the recommendations on attendance at these have not always been in line with the recommendations to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

Key Issues

Following a recent decision of a Committee to appoint only the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman to attend a National Association of Councillors event, a Member has requested if the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee might wish to formulate an overall policy in this regard.

Key Issues (continued)

There are a number of options which the Committee might wish to consider:

- (i) that the recommendation for attendance at all National Association of Councillors events be the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the appropriate Committee, the Council's representatives on the National Association of Councillors, together with a Member of the other Party Groupings not represented by the aforementioned Members;
- (ii) that only the Council's four representatives on the National Association of Councillors be authorised to attend, regardless of which Committee is considering the individual conference/seminar; or
- (iii) that it be a matter for the appropriate Committee to decide who should attend the conference/seminar.

Resource Implications

There are no Human Resources or financial implications associated with this report.

Whichever option the Committee decides to adopt will have future financial implications.

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to consider and adopt one of the three options as outlined.