



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Date:	Friday, 19th September, 2007
Subject:	National Association of Councillors - Annual Conference
Reporting Officer:	Mr. Liam Steele, Head of Committee and Members' Services (extension 6325)
Contact Officer:	Mrs. Julie Lilley, Members' Liaison Officer (extension 6321)

Relevant Background Information

The National Association of Councillors is holding its Annual Conference in Bournemouth from Friday, 10th until Sunday, 12th October.

The theme of this year's Conference is 'Communities in Control – Real People Real Power'. The Conference will consider the implications of passing power into the hands of local communities and to generate vibrant local democracy. The Conference will also provide an opportunity to hear from a number of expert speakers, participate in interactive question and answer sessions and hear of best practice in other Local Authorities.

The Council has been a member of the National Association of Councillors for a considerable period of years and has been represented at previous Conferences. Those Members who have attended have found it to be a valuable opportunity to increase their awareness of Members' issues and to discuss with other Councillors from across England, Scotland and Wales issues of mutual interest and concern.

Key Issues

The business of the Conference falls within the criteria set out in Section 38 of the 1972 Local Government (Northern Ireland) Act in that it involves issues connected with the discharge of the functions of the Council and/or affecting the district or its inhabitants.

Resource Implications	
Delegate Fee:	£350
Travel:	£194
Accommodation:	£130
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Total per delegate:	£674

Recommendations
<p>It is recommended that the Committee agrees to authorise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the attendance at the Annual Conference of the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman, the Council's representatives on the National Association of Councillors, Northern Ireland Region, the Head of Committee and Members' Services (or their nominees) and a representative of the Party Grouping on the Council not represented by the aforementioned Members; and ▪ the payment of the conference fees and the appropriate travelling and subsistence allowances in connection therewith.

Key to Abbreviations
N/A

Documents Attached
N/A