



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources (Transition) Committee
Subject:	Northern Ireland Local Government Association
Date:	Friday 9th October 2009
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Improvement
Contact Officer:	Kevin Heaney (ext 6202)

1.0	<u>Relevant background information</u>
1.1	Members will be aware of the ongoing discussions over the past year in regards to strengthening the relationship between the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) and the Council. The necessity for this is further reinforced by the fact that NILGA are viewed as the voice of local government within the Review of Public Administration (RPA) process.
2.0	<u>Key Issues</u>
2.1	Members will accept that the future role and remit of NILGA post RPA is somewhat uncertain at this stage. The Council has previously documented the need for a remodelled Local Government Association which is highly attuned, responsive and accountable to its constitute Councils and which provides a coherent single voice for the local government sector within Northern Ireland. Within the context of a smaller number of constitute Councils post 2011, there is a real opportunity to develop a more focused and effective role for NILGA as the representative voice of local government. NILGA themselves have indicated that the Association would be subject to review in the lead up to the new local government structures to be put in place in 2011.
2.2	Members will note that NILGA has requested a meeting between its Office Bearers and a delegation from Belfast City Council to discuss the RPA and the ongoing work of NILGA; specially with a view to ensuring that NILGA can respond to council needs and add value to the overall RPA process. A date of 16 th November 2009 has been proposed for the joint meeting.
2.3	It is therefore recommended that a cross-party delegation consisting of the Chair and Deputy Chair (or nominees) of the Council's RPA Transition Committee (i.e. SP&R) and Party Group Leaders (or nominees) meet with NILGA's Office Bearers.

3.0	Resource Implications
	<u>Financial and Human Resources</u>
	▪ There are no financial of Human Resources implications attached to this report.

4.0	Recommendations
	Members are asked consider the request from NILGA to meet and approve the attendance of a cross-party delegation comprising of the Chair and Deputy Chair of SP&R (or nominees) and Party Group Leaders (or nominees).

5.0	Decision Tracking
	Convene meeting between NILGA Office Bearers and cross-party delegation from Belfast City Council for November 2009 - Director of Improvement

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