



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Northern Ireland Local Government Association Annual Conference 2010
Date:	11 th December, 2009
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 Northern Ireland Local Government Association is holding its Annual Conference in the Slieve Donard Hotel, Newcastle from Thursday, 18th till Friday, 19th February, 2010.

The theme of the NILGA 2010 Annual Conference is 'Delivering Change – A Local Government for Tomorrow'. The main focus of the Conference will be on the progress achieved in implementing the reform of Local Government and the major hurdles which remain to be overcome in order to ensure that the 2011 deadline is met.

Attendance at the conference would provide an opportunity for Councillors to network with other Elected Members and consider how the vision for a modern Local Government system can be achieved within the designated timeframe. In addition, Members will be able to participate in the Northern Ireland Local Government Awards Ceremony which will be held on the Thursday evening. The Local Government Awards aim to recognise exceptional performance and achievement by both officers and Members.

Key Issues

As Members may be aware the Council is represented on NILGA by sixteen Members and both the Council and NILGA are taking steps to ensure that the views of Belfast City Council are taken account of properly. Attendance at the conference by Members will provide a further opportunity to ensure that the Council has a strong voice in the debate around the future of Local Government and the role to be played by NILGA and Councils in achieving satisfactory outcomes.

Resource Implications**Northern Ireland local Government Association Annual Conference**

Delegate Fee:	£200
Hotel Accommodation:	£90
Travel:	£30
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Total per delegate:	£320

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee agrees to authorise:

- the attendance at the NILGA Annual Conference of the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the Committee, the Head of Committee and Members' Services (or their nominees) and the Council's representatives on NILGA ; and
- the payment of the appropriate travelling and subsistence allowances in connection therewith.

Decision Tracking

Mr Liam Steele, Head of Committee and Members' Services, will organise registration of delegates as appropriate before 15th January, 2010.

Key to Abbreviations

N/A

Documents Attached

N/A