



Belfast City Council

Report to: Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.
Subject: The Social Policy and Ageing Research Centre Conference
Date: 24 September 2010
Reporting Officer: Mrs Siobhan Toland, Head of Environmental Health (ext 3281).
Contact Officer: Adele Keys, Environmental Health Officer, (ext 3607).

Relevant Background Information.

One of the Council's current priorities is improving services to older people. To ensure that this priority is given due regard across all Council services, an All Party Reference Group on Older People was set up a number of years ago, reporting to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. A cross-departmental officer group has also developed an action plan for improving these services and as part of this action plan an opportunity was identified to present a paper on the civic engagement opportunities provided by the Council for older people at the SPARC/CAP Annual Conference 2010 which is being hosted by Queens University Belfast and Trinity in Dublin on 16 & 17 November.

The conference is titled

Becoming Visible: Older People as Active Participants in the Community and in Long-term Care Settings.

The conference will consider how policies and practices for engaging older people in the community and in long-term care settings differ across countries and identify good practice. It will also explore the principles and practicalities of optimising older people's participation and the mechanisms for engaging greater numbers of older people as active citizens.

The conference will be of interest to older people, policy makers, researchers, students, and individuals working in the ageing sector. The conference programme maximises opportunities for networking and exchange between participants. In addition to the plenary sessions, research will be showcased during parallel sessions and in a poster exhibition which will run for the two days of the conference.

Key Issues.

The All Party Reference Group had agreed that it submit a paper for the event (attached). This was subsequently approved by the organisers with a request that it be presented at the event. Councillor B. Kelly, Chairman of the Reference Group has agreed to present this. The Committee is therefore requested to approve the attendance of Councillor Bernie Kelly and Adele Keys, Senior Environmental Health Officer at the event.

Resource Implications.

The costs for attendance are:

- Councillor Kelly for 2 days - 150 Euro
- 1 day officer attendance - 30 Euro (special rate)
- Totalling 180 Euro in delegate fees.
- The only other costs will be for travel which will be either by train or in mileage.

Recommendations.

The Committee is requested to agree to the attendance of Councillor Kelly at the 2 day event and for Adele Keys to attend on 16th November only.

Decision Tracking.

The Head of Environmental Health will provide an update report to the All Party Reference Group on Older People. as required.

Key to Abbreviations.

N/A

Documents Attached.

Programme outline
Abstract of presentation