



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Northern Ireland Local Government Association Annual Conference 2010
Date:	Friday, 19th November, 2010
Reporting Officer:	Mr. Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager (extension 6325)
Contact Officer:	Mrs. Julie Lilley, Democratic Services Officer (extension 6321)

1.0	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The Northern Ireland Local Government Association is holding its Annual Conference in the La Mon Hotel and Country Club, Castlereagh from Thursday, 10th till Friday, 11th February, 2011.
1.2	The theme of the NILGA 2011 Annual Conference is 'Energising Local Government'. The main focus of the Conference will be how Local Government can become energised to plan strategically for the delivery of services in the future. Debates at the Conference will include the current spending review, the economic crisis and an overview of how NILGA can move forward over the coming year.
1.3	Attendance at the conference would provide an opportunity for Councillors to network with other Elected Members from across Northern Ireland. 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.

2.0	Key Issues
2.1	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 role of NILGA and how best it can represent Local Government.

3.0	Resource Implications
3.1	<p>Northern Ireland local Government Association Annual Conference</p> <p>Delegate Fee: £195 Travel: £15 ----- Total per delegate: £210</p>

4.0	Equality Implications
4.1	None

5.0	Recommendations
5.1	<p>It is recommended that the Committee agrees to authorise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the attendance at the NILGA Annual Conference of the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the Committee, the Democratic Services Manager (or their nominees) and the Council's representatives on NILGA ; and ▪ the payment of the appropriate travelling and subsistence allowances in connection therewith.

6.0	Decision Tracking
<p>Officer responsible – Mrs. Julie Lilley, Democratic Services Officer</p> <p>10th January, 2011</p>	

7.0	Key to Abbreviations
<p>NILGA – Northern Ireland Local Government Association</p>	

8.0	Documents Attached
<p>None</p>	