



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	National Association of Councillors - Localism Act and Neighbourhood Planning Conference
Date:	Friday, 14th December, 2012
Reporting Officer:	Mr. Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager (extension 6314)
Contact Officer:	Mrs. Julie Lilley, Democratic Services Officer (extension 6321)

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The National Association of Councillors is holding a 'Localism Act and Neighbourhood Planning' Conference in Carlisle from Friday, 11th until Sunday, 13th January, 2013.
1.2	<p>The Conference will focus on the concept of neighbourhood planning and how it is to be implemented to ensure communities become involved at a local level in shaping and influencing plans for their areas. The conference will be particularly relevant to Members given the central role Elected Representatives will have in community planning.</p> <p>A number of prominent speakers from across the tiers of government will address the conference and take part in a 'Question Time' session.</p>
1.3	The council has been represented at NAC events for a number of years and representatives attending previous conferences have felt that their attendance gave them a valuable opportunity to meet with Local Government Representatives from throughout England, Scotland and Wales to discuss issues which are impacting on Local Authorities.

2	Key Issues
2.1	The business of the conference falls within the criteria set out in Section 34 of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 in that it involves issues connected with the interests of the inhabitants of the district or any part of it.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	<u>Financial</u> Delegate Fee: £350 Travel: £140 Accommodation: £120 Total per delegate: <u>£610</u>

4	Equality Implications
	N/A

5	Recommendations
5.1	It is recommended that the Committee authorises: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the attendance at the National Association of Councillors Localism Act and Neighbourhood Planning Conference of the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman, the Council's representatives on the National Association of Councillors (Northern Ireland Region), and a representative of each of the Parties on the Council not represented by the aforementioned Members.

6	Decision Tracking
Officers responsible: Julie Lilley, Democratic Services Officer January 2013	