



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland– Spring Seminar
Date:	Friday, 24th January, 2014
Reporting Officer:	Mr. Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager (extension 6314)
Contact Officer:	Ms. Kate McCafferty, Democratic Services Assistant (extension 6308)

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The Council has received notification of the Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland (AMAI) Spring Seminar in Bundoran, County Donegal which is taking place from Friday, 14th to Saturday, 15th February, 2014.
1.2	The main theme of the Seminar is “The Local Government Landscape from June 2014 Onwards”. The Seminar will, amongst other things, examine the mechanisms which Local Government can put in place to maximise service delivery for citizens. There will also be sessions on learning from the past and focusing on the future and how the utilisation of social and printed media can assist Elected Representatives. Keynote speakers at the Seminar will include Dr. Seán O’Riordáin, Director of the Public Policy Advisers Network and Feargal Brophy, founder and Executive Director of Open Financial Services.
1.3	The Council has been represented at AMAI events for a number of years and participants at previous events have felt that their attendance provided them with a valuable opportunity to meet with Local Government Representatives from throughout Ireland to discuss issues of mutual interest and concern.

2	Key Issues
2.1	The business of the Seminar 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	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <table> <tr> <td>Delegate Fee:</td> <td>£140</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Accommodation Costs:</td> <td>£120</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Travel:</td> <td>£150</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Subsistence:</td> <td>£160</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total per delegate:</td> <td><u>£570</u></td> </tr> </table>	Delegate Fee:	£140	Accommodation Costs:	£120	Travel:	£150	Subsistence:	£160	Total per delegate:	<u>£570</u>
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4	Equality Implications
	N/A

5	Recommendations
5.1	<p>It is recommended that the Committee authorises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the attendance at the AMAI Spring Seminar of the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman, the Council's representatives on the National Association of Councillors, Northern Ireland Region, the Democratic Services Manager (or their nominees) and a representative of each of the Parties on the Council not represented by the aforementioned Members. ▪ the payment of the appropriate travelling and subsistence allowances in connection therewith.

6	Decision Tracking
<p>Officers responsible:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mr. Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager</p> <p>February 2014</p>	

7	Key to Abbreviations
<p>AMAI – Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland</p>	