



<b>Subject:</b>	<b>National Association of Councillors Annual Conference</b>
<b>Date:</b>	20th August, 2021
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Walsh, City Solicitor / Director of Legal and Civic Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Call-in</b>	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	To consider the attendance of the Council's representatives on the National Association of Councillors at the annual conference in Carlisle.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	The Members of the Committee are asked to recommend that, in accordance with the Council decision of 4th May, the Chief Executive exercise her delegated authority to approve the attendance of the Council's representatives on the National Association of Councillors at the Conference to be held in Carlisle from 1st to 3rd October in Carlisle.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	The Committee will be aware that it has appointed 8 Members to the National Association of Councillors (Northern Ireland Region).

3.2	The annual conference of the National Body will this year be held in Carlisle from 1st till 3rd October, 2021.
3.3	<p>The theme of this year's conference is entitled The Future for the Regions / Levelling up.</p> <p><i>Correspondence from the Association states:</i></p> <p><i>"The UK government has announced it is committed to levelling up across the whole of the UK to ensure that no community is left behind, particularly as we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.</i></p> <p><i>That is why they are now making the biggest changes to the way they support local economic growth in a decade. To regenerate our town centres and high streets, support individuals into employment, improve local transport links and invest in local culture, while giving communities a stronger voice to take over cherished local assets that might otherwise be lost.</i></p> <p><i>This will involve the UK government decentralising power and working more directly with local partners and communities across the UK, who are best placed to understand the needs of their local areas and are more closely aligned to the local economic areas to deliver improvements on the ground.</i></p> <p><i>This conference will examine how this is to take place and if it will be affected with the current financial situation due to the pandemic."</i></p>
3.4	<p>The Committee has in previous years authorised the attendance of its representatives at the annual conference.</p> <p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p>
3.5	<p>The fee for attendance at the conference is £350 plus VAT per delegate. There will also be travel and accommodation costs. Any expenditure in this regard can be met from within existing budgets.</p> <p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p>
3.6	None associated with this report.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	None.

