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| **ELECTED MEMBERS’ CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE** | **25 April 2017** |
| **COUNCIL MEETING** |

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| **Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)** |
| **Strategic Theme** | Leader and Champion |
| **Outcome** | Provide civic leadership |
| **Lead Officer** | Director of Performance |
| **Cost:** (If applicable) | Costs to be met, as detailed below, from Conference Budget (£8,000 allocated proportionally) £200 per Councillor |

**1. Purpose of report**

 To inform Councillors about conferences that they may wish to attend.

**2.** The following are listed for consideration:

**2.1 NILGA – ‘Foundations for Innovation’; Towards Digital Local Government**NILGA will be holding a conference ***“Foundations for Innovation; Towards Digital Local Government”*** on 25th April 2017 at Craigavon Civic centre, with the purpose of considering the transformation challenges for our 11 councils, and how to maximise the opportunities of digital technology, innovation and collaboration, to deliver better services for our ratepayers.

It is intended that this conference will be solely for local government members and officers, and will be of interest to a wide range of people across the sector, particularly those who are interested in transforming service delivery, developing the digital economy, information management, collaborative working and improving efficiency.

Participation is confirmed by NESTA, Department of Finance, Limerick County Council, Department of Economy, NIHE, and further speakers being sourced from Peterborough DNA, LGA Innovation Board, Greater Manchester, and a number of other councils.
A draft agenda is attached, but is still subject to some change.

Cost: Free of charge

*NILGA Full Members will automatically be registered for the event.*



 **2.2 Mna na hEireann 2017 – Celebrating Women in Modern Ireland**

The Dundalk Widows Group will be holding a conference “***Mna na hEireann 2017” – A Conference on the theme of Women in Northern Ireland*** and will concentrate on the gender equality, diversity and inclusion issue and on encouraging women to enter and progress in the role of a public representative, in areas such as the political field, boards of management and public/ voluntary committees.

The conference through a series of lectures and Q+A sessions will evaluate the lessons learned about political parties, gender and candidate recruitment at the 2014 local elections and the impact of ‘Gender Quota ‘system on the 2016 General election. Is the Gender Quota system working as the main driving force behind women’s increased participation in elections?

The conference will take place on Friday 19th and Saturday 20th May 2017, at An Grianan, the I.C.A. Headquarters in Termonfeckin, Co Louth.

Cost: 180 Euros to include all meals



**3. Recommendation**

Members wishing to attend the above conferences should contact Democratic Services.