



Title of Report:	Conference Report
Committee Report Submitted To:	Corporate Policy and Resources Committee Meeting
Date of Meeting:	24 February 2026
For Decision or For Information	For Decision
To be discussed In Committee YES/NO	No

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	Cohesive Leadership
Outcome	Council operates as one effective and efficient corporate unit with a common purpose and culture
Lead Officer	Director of Corporate Services

Estimated Timescale for Completion	
Date to be Completed	

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	See cost against each Conference
Included in Current Year Estimates	YES/NO
Capital/Revenue	
Code	3101-62507
Staffing Costs	

Legal Considerations	
Input of Legal Services Required	YES/NO
Legal Opinion Obtained	YES/NO

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	Screening Completed	Yes/No	Date:

Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

1.0 Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to inform Elected Members of conferences and courses they may wish to attend.

1.2 The following is listed:

2.0 International Women’s Day Conference

2.1 Date: Thursday 5 March 2026 8:45am – 2:30pm

Location: Ulster University Coleraine Campus

Cost: £35 per person

2.2 Extract

CelebrateHER Conference 2026

Join us on 5 March 2026 for an inspiring and uplifting day, celebrating women and their incredible contributions across our community.

Host Caroline O’Neill (Digg Mama) will oversee thought provoking keynote speakers and a panel of motivational ladies, with opportunities to connect with like minded women!

Event delivered in partnership with Enterprise Causeway and Ulster University and supported by Go Succeed.

Please see link below for further information:

https://www.facebook.com/events/2687691044947432/?ref_source=NEWS_FEED

3.0 Northern Ireland Local Government Association - Effective Communication for Influence: Debating Skills for Councillors Workshop

3.1 Date: 6pm – 8pm, 18 March 2026

Location: Online

Cost: n/a

3.2 Extract

Online workshop for councillors delivered by Bello Consulting

Healthy debate is one of the things that makes local democracy work. When it is done well, it strengthens decision-making, builds trust in public institutions, and models to communities that disagreement can be constructive.

This 90-minute interactive online session gives councillors a practical framework for debating well: how to share opposing views with genuine openness, how to challenge without it becoming personal, and how to come to

a considered conclusion even when the room is divided. The focus is on behaviour change, not theory. Councillors will leave with one or two things they can actually do differently next time the temperature rises in a meeting.

Learning outcomes from the session:

- Improved understanding and awareness of how to share opposing views, discuss these with respect and an open mind and come to informed conclusions for the benefit of the community.*
- Developed communication and interpersonal skills for use in formal and informal settings, including in the chamber, in committee, and online.*
- Confidence to engage in meaningful debate and handle challenging situations without defaulting to entrenched positions.*

3.3 Elected Members wishing to attend can contact Democratic Services or email events@nilga.org

4.0 Northern Ireland Local Government Association - Ending Violence Against Women and Girls - Shared Island Event

4.1 Date: 24-25 March 2026
Location: Slieve Russell Hotel, Co. Cavan
Cost: €130pp for accommodation

4.2 Extract:

Following a successful application to the Shared Island Civic Society Fund, NILGA & the Association for Irish Local Government (AILG) will hold a cross-border event on developing the leadership and influence of councillors in relation to Ending Violence Against Women & Girls (EVAWG), on 24-25 March in the Slieve Russell Hotel, Co. Cavan.

We have been working with TEO to develop the leadership role of councillors in EVAWG and would like to bring councillors with experience of tackling this issue together to discuss challenges and opportunities with their counterparts in AILG. Given your council's role in supporting EVAWG action locally, we would ask each council to consider sending two elected members to the event which is free to attend. Overnight accommodation can be booked directly with the hotel at a cost of €130pp.

The outline agenda is as follows:

Tuesday 25 March
3.30 Registration & networking
4.00 Welcome
4.10 The Strategic Context
4.40 Violence against female politicians – the impact
5.15 Allyship for councillors workshop
6.45 Feedback & close

8.00 Dinner

Wednesday 25 March

9.30 Registration & networking

10.00 Opening remarks & reflections

10.10 Local EVAWG initiatives

10.40 The role of the media & responsible reporting

11.30 Scenarios & Solutions workshop

12.40 Feedback from roundtables

13.00 Next steps & lunch

I would therefore be grateful if you would bring this matter to the most relevant council committee for approval as soon as possible and I look forward to hearing back from you at the earliest opportunity.

5.0 Recommendation

It is recommended that Council consider the Conference report and Members wishing to attend the International Women's Day Conference or the NILGA Effective Communication Workshop contact Democratic Services to book a place.

It is further recommended that Council nominate 2 Elected Members to attend the Ending Violence Against Women and Girls - Shared Island Event via d'Hondt.