Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	**Special Responsibility Allowance**
Date:	3rd June, 2011
Reporting Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager
Contact Officer:	

1	**Relevant Background Information**
1.1	The Local Government (Payments to Councillors) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007 provide that the maximum amount which the Council is permitted to spend on Special Responsibility Allowance is £82,000 per annum.
1.2	Following the Local Government Elections in May and the recent changes agreed by the Council to the Standing Orders, which recognise Party Political Parties on the Council rather than Political Groupings, the time is considered to be right to review the distribution of these allowances.

2	**Key Issues**
2.1	The proposed division of the Special Responsibility Allowance between the Chairmen and the Deputy Chairmen of the Standing Committees and the Officers of the Political Parties on the Council is set out in Appendix 1.
2.2	The total proposed allocation is £82,000.

3	**Resource Implications**
3.1	The recommended levels of allowance are provided for within the current revenue budgets.

4	**Equality and Good Relations Implications**
4.1	None. The division of the Special Responsibility Allowance is based upon the positions held by individual Members either as Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen of Committees or as Officers within the Political Parties. The allocations are consistent with the Council's system of proportionality which seeks to allocate positions in accordance with the relative strength of the Parties within the Council.

5	**Recommendations**
5.1	The Committee is recommended to agree the allocation of the Special Responsibility Allowance with effect from 20th May for the Party Officers and with effect from 26th May for the Chairmen and the Deputy Chairmen of the Committees.

6	**Decision Tracking**

Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager

1st June, 2011.

7	**Documents Attached**

Appendix 1 – Allocation of Special Responsibility Allowance