



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Private Members Bill on Special Advisors
Date:	4th November, 2011
Reporting Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager (ext 6314)
Contact Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager (ext 6314)

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Correspondence has been received from Mr J H Allister MLA, QC seeking the Council's views on his proposal to introduce to the Assembly a Private Members Bill on the subject of the appointment of Special Advisors (copy attached at Appendix 1).
1.2	Responses to the consultation are required by 30th November, 2011.

2	Key Issues
2.1	The appointment of Special Advisors to a Minister in the Assembly is not a matter over which the Council has any responsibility. It must also be accepted that it would be difficult, if not impossible, to reach a consensus on this matter where there is likely to be different or opposing views taken by the various Parties. The Council's accepted practice in such circumstances is not to make a corporate response but rather to leave it to each of the Political Parties to respond.

3	Resource Implications
	None

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
	None.

5	Recommendations
5.1	The Committee is recommended to refer the consultation document to the individual Political Parties on the Council.

6	Decision Tracking
Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager	
November, 2011	