



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Allowances for the Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor and High Sheriff
Date:	8th June, 2012
Reporting Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager (ext 6314)
Contact Officer:	

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The Personal and Entertainments Allowances for the Lord Mayor, the Deputy Lord Mayor and the High Sheriff are normally reviewed annually.
1.2	The established practice had been that the Personal and Entertainments Allowances should take into account increases in the cost of living by increasing the allowances in line with the Consumer Price Index.
1.3	However, last year the Committee referred consideration of the matter to the Budget and Transformation Panel. That Panel had been provided with three options, which were to increase the allowances by a percentage equivalent to the Consumer Price Index as at 1st May (4.5%), increase the allowances by a percentage equivalent to the District Rate increase for that year (2.95%) or not to increase the allowances for the year. The Panel decided to recommend that the Committee should not increase the allowances for the 2011/12 year.
1.4	The Committee, at its meeting on 17th June, 2011, adopted the recommendation of the Budget and Transformation Panel and, accordingly, the Lord Mayor's Personal and Entertainments Allowances for that year were maintained at £34,800 and £25,900 respectively and the Deputy Lord Mayor's and the High Sheriff's Personal and Entertainments Allowances were maintained at £6,250 and £735 respectively.

2	Key Issues
2.1	The Committee is requested to consider if there should be a cost of living increase in the civic allowances for the 2012/13 year.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	Provision for a cost of living increase to the civic allowances has been made in the revenue budget.

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
4.1	None.

5	Recommendations
5.1	<p>The Committee is requested to decide which of the following options should be adopted in relation to the allowances to be paid to the Lord Mayor, the Deputy Lord Mayor and the High Sheriff for the 2012/13 year:</p> <p><u>Option 1</u></p> <p>No increase in the civic allowances for the 2012/13 year.</p> <p><u>Option 2</u></p> <p>Increase the allowances by 3%, in line with the Consumer Price Index as at 1st April.</p> <p><u>Option 3</u></p> <p>Increase the allowances in line with the District Rate increase for the 2012/13 year at 2.6%.</p>

6	Decision Tracking
<p>Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager</p> <p>3rd July, 2012</p>	