



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Allowances for the Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor and High Sheriff</b>
<b>Date:</b>	19th June, 2014
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager (ext 6314)

<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
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, in the last three years the Committee has considered three options, which were to increase the allowances by a percentage equivalent to the Consumer Price Index, increase the allowances by a percentage equivalent to the District Rate increase for the year or not to increase the allowances for the year.
1.4	In 2011, 2012 and 2013 the Committee decided not to make any increase in the allowances and, accordingly, the Lord Mayor's Personal and Entertainments Allowances for those years 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.
1.5	This year, as the term of office for the Civic Dignitaries will end on 31st March, 2015, the allowances will be paid pro rata for that shorter period.

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	The Committee is requested to consider if there should be a cost of living increase in the civic allowances for the 2014/15 year.

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

<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Implications</b>
4.1	There are no relevant equality and good relations implications

<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
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 2014/2015 year:</p> <p><b><u>Option 1</u></b></p> <p>No increase in the civic allowances for the 2014/15 year.</p> <p><b><u>Option 2</u></b></p> <p>Increase the allowances in line with the District Rate increase for the 2014/15 year at 0%.</p> <p><b><u>Option 3</u></b></p> <p>Increase the allowances by 1.8%, in line with the Consumer Price Index as at 1st April.</p>

<b>6</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
<p>Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager</p> <p>3rd July, 2014</p>	