



<b>Subject:</b>	Allowances for Civic Dignitaries for 2017/18
<b>Date:</b>	19 May 2017
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Walsh, City Solicitor
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Sandra Robinson, Lord Mayor's Principal Officer

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>	
<b>After Committee Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>After Council Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Some time in the future</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Never</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Call-in</b>	
<b>Is the decision eligible for Call-in?</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	To consider the allowances payable to the Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor and High Sheriff for the 2017/18 year.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Consider the appropriate level of the Civic Allowances for 2017/18 and to choose one of the following 4 options:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Increase the allowances by 2.3% in line with the Consumer Price Index of</li></ol></li></ul>

	<p>inflation.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Increase the allowances by a percentage equivalent to the District Rate increase for the year – which would be 1.89% increase.</li> <li>3. Not increase the allowances for the year.</li> <li>4. Adopt a different approach this year.</li> </ol>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	<p>The Personal and Civic Entertainments Allowances for the Lord Mayor, the Deputy Lord Mayor and the High Sheriff are normally reviewed annually.</p> <p>The established practice had been that the Personal and Civic Entertainments Allowances should take into account increases in the cost of living by increasing the allowances in line with the Consumer Price Index.</p>
3.2	<p>However, in the last six 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.</p>
3.3	<p>In 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 the Committee decided not to make any increase in the allowances and in 2014 the allowances were not increased with the exception of the civic entertainments allowances for the Deputy Lord Mayor and the High Sheriff which were both increased to £1,000. Accordingly, the Lord Mayor's Personal and Civic Entertainments Allowances are currently £34,800 and £25,900 respectively and the Deputy Lord Mayor's and the High Sheriff's Personal and Civic Entertainments Allowances are £6,250 and £1,000 respectively.</p>
3.4	<p>The Council has set the District Rate at a 1.89% increase for the 2017/18 year and the Consumer Price Index of inflation is currently at 2.3% (March 2017 figures). Therefore the Committee should indicate if it wishes to maintain the position it considered in the past 6 years not to increase the allowances for 2017/18, or to increase the allowances in line with these percentages.</p>
	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
3.5	<p>Any increase in the Civic Allowances can be met from within existing budgets.</p>

3.6	<u>Equality &amp; Good Relations Implications</u> There are no equality or good relations considerations associated with this report.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	None.