



<b>Subject:</b>	Nominations for Consideration for Appointment to the Position of High Sheriff
<b>Date:</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> November, 2017
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Walsh, City Solicitor
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager

<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 establishment of a deadline by which the Nominating Officer of the Political Party entitled to nominate a person for consideration for appointment to the office of High Sheriff must make the nomination.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to agree that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>For this year, the deadline for the nomination of a person for High Sheriff be set as 6.00pm on the day following the December Council meeting i.e. 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2017; and</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For future years, the deadline be set as 6.00pm on the day of the November Council meeting.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	The Committee will recall that, at its meeting in September, it adopted a policy to apply the D'hondt proportionality method in order to identify the Parties that would be entitled to nominate a person to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland for consideration for appointment to the office of High Sheriff.
3.2	<p>The D'hondt methodology is simply a mathematical formula used to allocate places between Parties based upon their strength on an organisation. One of the features of the D'hondt system is that a deadline is established by which a Party entitled to a place must nominate or else the choice falls to the Party with the next highest score on the D'hondt table. The Local Government Act (NI) 2014 at Part 1 of Schedule 1 deals with the allocation of Positions of Responsibility using the D'hondt method. At sub-paragraph 3 of that Part of the Schedule it states that:</p> <p><i>"If –</i></p> <p><i>(a) The nominating officer does not exercise any function conferred by sub-paragraph (1) or (2) within a period specified in Standing Orders; or</i></p> <p><i>(b) The person nominated under sub-paragraph (2) does not take up the selected position of responsibility within that period;</i></p> <p><i>That function becomes exercisable by the nominating officer of the party for which the formula in paragraph 3 gives the next highest total."</i></p>
3.3	Our own Standing Orders, at Standing Order 34, does establish time limits for Nominating Officers to nominate a Member of their Party when allocating Positions of Responsibility at the first annual Council meeting following a local election. That limit is 15 minutes.
3.4	The office of High Sheriff is not a Position of Responsibility and therefore the provisions set out above do not automatically apply. However, it is considered that it would be necessary for the Committee to establish its own deadline in order for the D'hondt process to operate properly.

3.5	<p>The Council is normally written to by the Northern Ireland Office in October asking it to submit the names of the persons for consideration for appointment. Therefore, in order to allow Parties sufficient time to consider whom they wish to nominate when it is their turn under the D'hondt system, it is recommended that the deadline be set at 6.00pm on the day of the November Council meeting. For this year, given that the Committee decision will not be ratified until the Council meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> December, it is recommended that the deadline be set at 6.00pm on 5<sup>th</sup> December.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p>
3.6	<p>None associated with this report.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p>
3.7	<p>None associated with this report.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	None