



Subject:	Appointment of Members to the Board of the Belfast Harbour Commissioners
Date:	23 rd February, 2024
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, Interim City Solicitor/Director of Civic and Legal Services
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Democratic Services and Governance Manager

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted? Yes No

Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.

Insert number

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)
4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter
5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained
6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction
7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in? Yes No

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To consider the process to be used to identify 6 elected Members to be considered under a public appointment's process to fill 2 places on the Board of the Belfast Harbour Commissioners.

2.0	Recommendation												
2.1	The Committee is recommended to employ a one-off proportionality exercise, using the Sainte Lague method, for the purpose of identifying the political nomination of 6 members for consideration for appointment to the Board of the Belfast Harbour Commissioners.												
2.2	The Committee is asked to agree to two nominations from both the Sinn Fein Party and the DUP and one each for the Alliance Party and the SDLP.												
3.0	Main Report												
3.1	The Belfast Harbour Order (Northern Ireland) 2002 provides that a maximum of four of the Harbour Commissioners shall be Members of Belfast City Council.												
3.2	Correspondence has been received from the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) (copy attached at appendix 1) indicating that there are currently three Councillors in post with one vacancy. One Councillor has served two terms of appointment and cannot be reappointed after 31 March 2024. The remaining two Councillors are due to complete their first term on 31 March 2024 and the DfI Permanent Secretary has decided that he is minded to reappoint them for a further term to ensure continuity on the Board. If both eligible Councillors accept the reappointments, then the DfI will be recruiting for two vacancies with the terms due to commence from 1 April 2024.												
3.3	In November 2019 in considering the appointment of Members to the Board, the Council agreed to a one-off selection process using the Sainte Lague system.												
3.4	In keeping with that principle, the Sainte Lague system would provide the following result:												
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2	DUP												
3	ALL												
4	SF												
5	SDLP												
6	DUP												
3.5	Giving Sinn Fein 2 choices, DUP 2 choices, Alliance 1 choice and SDLP 1 choice.												
	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>												
3.6	There are not any financial implications for the Council associated with this report.												

3.7	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>The suggested approach to be employed to select Members for consideration for appointment to the Board of the Belfast Harbour Commissioners is in keeping with the principles of proportionality established in the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014. Therefore, there are not any equality or good relations considerations associated with this report.</p>
4.0	<p>Appendices - Documents Attached</p>
	<p>Appendix 1 – Correspondence from the Department of Infrastructure</p>