

Summary of Belfast District Council AGM – March 2015

THE PRESIDING COUNCILLOR (CLLR DEIRDRE HARGEY) WILL BE IN THE CHAIR FOR THE DURATION OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1. Agree Standing Orders

- The first task at the meeting may be to agree standing orders (if this has not already been approved at a previous meeting).

2. Agree method of filling positions of responsibility (Schedule 1)

- The first statutory requirement will be to **select a method for filling the positions of responsibility.**
- The **default method will be d'Hondt unless a qualified majority of the new council decide otherwise** to select either the Sainte Lague method (Schedule 1, Part 1, Para 3(2)) or the STV / election method (Schedule 1, Part 2).
- At this point any counter proposal to use an alternative method or proportionality will need to be proposed and voted upon
- Once a method is determined the positions of responsibility can then be filled.
- These positions will come into effect on 1 April 2015

2. Appointment of Councillors to Committees (Schedule 2)

- The next task will be to appoint the councillors to committees
- There are two methods which can be used – quota greatest remainder or droop quota
- The **default methodology will be the quota greatest remainder** (see schedule 2, subsection 3)
- The council may decide to select the **droop quota method** but a decision to do so will **require a qualified majority** (see schedule 2, subsection 3, sub-paragraph 3)

3. Appointment of Aldermen

- The appointment of Aldermen is provided for by the Regulation 4 of the Local Government (Transitional, Incidental, Consequential and Supplemental Provisions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 – which deal with Charters and Status.
- The number of the aldermen shall be such number as the council may determine but shall not exceed one quarter of the whole number of councillors.
- The **aldermen will be appointed with effect from 1 April 2015** (when the new Council is officially recognised under borough status again)