



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Appointments to the West Belfast Partnership Board
Date:	19th March, 2013
Reporting Officer:	Mr. Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager (ext 6314)
Contact Officer:	Mr. Barry Flynn, Democratic Services Officer (ext 6312)

1	Relevant Background Information																											
1.1	The Committee is responsible for making appointments to the several Partnership Boards across the City, namely the North Belfast Partnership Board, the South Belfast Partnership Board, the East Belfast Partnership Board, the West Belfast Partnership Board and the Greater Shankill Partnership Board.																											
1.2	<p>The methodology used to appoint Members to these Boards has been developed over the last 14 years to try to ensure that the Boards function as effectively as possible. The Council currently appoints 8 Members to sit on the West Belfast Partnership Board. At its meeting on 15th June, 2011 the Committee agreed that the appointments should be made in such a way as to reflect the strengths of the Parties in the Lower Falls and Upper Falls District Electoral Areas. The table set out below shows the allocation which the Parties would be entitled to on the Board based upon the strict application of proportionality.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Party</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Number of Members</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Representation</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Sinn Fein</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> <td style="text-align: center;">(6.40) 6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Democratic Unionist</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> <td style="text-align: center;">(0.00) 0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SDLP</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">(1.60) 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Alliance</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> <td style="text-align: center;">(0.00) 0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ulster Unionist</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> <td style="text-align: center;">(0.00) 0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PUP</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> <td style="text-align: center;">(0.00) 0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Independent</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> <td style="text-align: center;">(0.00) 0</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">10</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The Committee agreed to make the appointments for the 4-year term on that basis.</p>	Party	Number of Members	Representation	Sinn Fein	8	(6.40) 6	Democratic Unionist	0	(0.00) 0	SDLP	2	(1.60) 2	Alliance	0	(0.00) 0	Ulster Unionist	0	(0.00) 0	PUP	0	(0.00) 0	Independent	0	(0.00) 0		10	8
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2	Key Issues																											
2.1	A letter has been received from the Chief Executive of the West Belfast Partnership Board indicating that they have undertaken a review of their governance arrangements. The letter points out that the representation on the Board from the Council should be six members rather than eight, as set out in their Constitution. The Board have therefore asked the Council to amend its representation from eight Members to six Members.																											
2.2	If the Committee is happy to agree to this amendment, then the application of our system of proportionality would give the following result:																											
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3	Resource Implications
3.1	None.

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
4.1	The allocation of Members to the Partnership Boards is, primarily, determined by the strict application of proportionality so that the Parties have the number of seats on the Boards commensurate with their strength on the Council.

5	Recommendations
5.1	The Committee is recommended to agree to amend its representation on the West Belfast Partnership Board to 5 Members from Sinn Fein and 1 Member from the Social Democratic and Labour Party.

6	Decision Tracking
Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager.	