



## Belfast District Council (Shadow)

<b>Report to</b>	<b>Shadow Strategic Policy and Resources Committee</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Development of New Standing Orders</b>
<b>Date:</b>	20th February, 2015
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager (Ext 6314)

<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	The Shadow Council, at its first meeting in June, 2014, adopted the DOE Model Standing Orders for the regulation of business at Shadow Council and Shadow Committees. This was always seen as a stop-gap measure until such time as the Shadow Council developed its own set of Standing Orders.

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	The new Standing Orders can't be fully developed until the Assembly passes the Local Government (Standing Orders) Regulations (Northern Ireland). At present these are expected to be presented to the Assembly this month for agreement by affirmative resolution.
2.2	These Regulations will include elements which will be mandatory for inclusion in our own Standing Orders. The consultation on the Regulations identified these issues as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Qualified Majority Voting</li><li>• Call-In Process</li><li>• Positions of Responsibility – Time Limits</li><li>• Appointment of more than one Committee</li></ul>
2.3	In the meantime, officers have drawn together a draft of what the new Standing Orders might look like. We have tried to make use of plain English where possible and to make the Standing Orders more easily understood and applied. The draft Standing Orders have been split into Sections. Section 1 deals with the transaction of business at a full Council meeting, Section 2 provides for the transaction of business at Standing Committees and Section 3 includes some

	miscellaneous Standing Orders. We have also appended the current operating protocols for the Licensing and Planning Committees, although these may also be amended by the controlling Committees over the next couple of months.
2.4	It is to be hoped that the Local Government (Standing Orders) Regulations (Northern Ireland) will be made by the Assembly in time for a further report on the Standing Orders to be presented to the Committee at its meeting in March.

<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	None at this stage.

<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Implications</b>
4.1	There are no Good Relations or Equality considerations in relation to this report.

<b>5</b>	<b>Call-In</b>
5.1	This decision is subject to Call-In.

<b>6</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
6.1	The Committee is requested to consider the draft Standing Orders and to feed back to the officers any comment thereon.

<b>7</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 – Draft Standing Orders