



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	Membership of the Housing Forum
Date:	23 rd April, 2010
Reporting Officer:	Liam Steele, Head of Committee and Members' Services
Contact Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Principal Committee Administrator

Relevant Background Information

The Housing Forum was established as a Working Group at the time of the review of the Council's governance arrangements in June, 2007. The Forum replaced the former Housing Liaison Committee.

At that time, it was considered that it would be appropriate for the membership of the Forum to comprise all Members of Council, as all Members deal on a routine basis with queries from constituents on housing related issues. However, it has become apparent that the vast majority of Members deal with these constituency issues directly with the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and therefore do not need to attend the Housing Forum meetings. Accordingly, the attendance record for meetings of the Forum can appear, at first glance, to be poor.

Key Issues

In order to address this issue, the views of the Party Group leaders was sought on a suggestion to change the membership of the Forum from all Members of Council to a membership of 12, based on the Council's system of proportionality. The Group Leaders were in agreement with the proposed change.

This would establish the membership of the Forum as:-

3 SF
3 DUP
2 UU
2SDLP
1 ALL
1PUP

It should be pointed out that the Housing Brief, prepared by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, would continue to be circulated to all Members of Council in order to keep them informed of the Executive's plans for development in the City and that any Member of Council who so wished could continue to attend meetings of the Forum.

Resource Implications

There are no resource implications.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee agrees to revise the membership of the Housing Forum to 12 Members based on the Council's system of proportionality, as set out in the report.

Decision Tracking

Liam Steele, Head of Committee and Members' Services

May, 2010.