



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Allowances for the Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor and High Sheriff</b>
<b>Date:</b>	10th May, 2012
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager (ext 6314)
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	

<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	The Personal and Entertainments Allowances for the Lord Mayor, the Deputy Lord Mayor and the High Sheriff are normally reviewed annually.
1.2	The established practice had been that the Personal and Entertainments Allowances should take into account increases in the cost of living by increasing the allowances in line with the Consumer Price Index.
1.3	However, in the last two years the Committee has considered three options, which were to increase the allowances by a percentage equivalent to the Consumer Price Index, increase the allowances by a percentage equivalent to the District Rate increase for the year or not to increase the allowances for the year.
1.4	In 2011 and 2012 the Committee decided not to make any increase in the allowances and, accordingly, the Lord Mayor's Personal and Entertainments Allowances for those years were maintained at £34,800 and £25,900 respectively and the Deputy Lord Mayor's and the High Sheriff's Personal and Entertainments Allowances were maintained at £6,250 and £735 respectively.

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	The Committee is requested to consider if there should be a cost of living increase in the civic allowances for the 2013/14 year.

<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	Provision for a cost of living increase to the civic allowances has been made in the revenue budget.

<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Implications</b>
4.1	There are no relevant equality and good relations implications

<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
5.1	<p>The Committee is requested to decide which of the following options should be adopted in relation to the allowances to be paid to the Lord Mayor, the Deputy Lord Mayor and the High Sheriff for the 2013/14 year:</p> <p><u>Option 1</u></p> <p>No increase in the civic allowances for the 2013/14 year.</p> <p><u>Option 2</u></p> <p>Increase the allowances in line with the District Rate increase for the 2013/14 year at 0%.</p> <p><u>Option 3</u></p> <p>Increase the allowances by 2.8%, in line with the Consumer Price Index as at 16th April.</p>

<b>6</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
<p>Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager</p> <p>3rd June, 2013</p>	