



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Notice of Motion – Robert James McMordie</b>
<b>Date:</b>	21st March, 2014
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager, ext. 6314

<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	<p>The Committee will recall that the Council had, at its meeting on 3rd April, referred the undernoted notice of motion, which had been moved by Councillor Kingston and seconded by Councillor Haire, to it for consideration;</p> <p><i>“This Council notes that this month marks the centenary of the death of Robert James McMordie, Lord Mayor of Belfast 1910 – 1914, Freeman of the City, MP for East Belfast in the fifth year of his Mayoralty, which encompassed significant historic events, including the signing of Ulster’s Solemn League and Covenant and the formation of the Young Citizen Volunteers of Ireland and the Ulster Volunteers, whose statue, funded by public subscription, stands in the grounds of the City Hall and whose widow, Julia McMordie, subsequently entered politics and was elected as a Councillor, MP and the first female High Sheriff of Belfast, and agrees that this centenary be marked with a commemorative event in the City Hall.”</i></p>
<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	<p>The contribution to the political life of Belfast made by Robert McMordie (1849 to 1914) was significant and his achievements are well-documented within the notice of motion. Robert McMordie died on 25th March, 1914, during the fifth year of his Mayoralty; his statue is located at the Donegall Square West entrance to the City Hall Grounds, opposite to the gates of the Cenotaph. The Committee should bear in mind that the actual centenary of his death occurs next Tuesday, 25th March, therefore, time constraints would preclude the holding of an event on that date.</p>
2.2	<p>Given that Robert James McMordie served as Lord Mayor of Belfast from 1910 until 1914, the Committee might consider it appropriate to recommend that the Lord Mayor (or the incoming Lord Mayor) consider hosting an appropriate reception to mark the centenary of his death.</p>

<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	Costs to be met from within existing budgets.

<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Implications</b>
4.1	None

<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
5.1	The Committee is requested to consider the matter and if it is decided that the centenary should be marked then it is recommended that the Lord Mayor (or the incoming Lord Mayor) be requested to host an appropriate reception.

<b>6</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
Democratic Services Section will implement any decision taken.	