



Subject:	Regional Rate 2017/18
Date:	19 May 2017
Reporting Officer:	Ronan Cregan; Director of Finance and Resources
Contact Officer:	Mark McBride, Head of Finance and Performance

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	This report provides an update on the setting of the regional rate and arrangements for issue of rate bills for 2017/18.
1.2	Members will recall that a district rate increase of 1.89% was agreed by Council at its meeting on the 1 February 2017. At that stage the regional rate had not been agreed.
1.3	The Northern Ireland (Ministerial Appointments and Regional Rates) Bill 2016-17 has set the regional rate increase for Northern Ireland for the year ending the 31 March 2018 at 1.61%.
1.4	The district rate will account for approximately 44% of a rates bill in Belfast with the remaining 56% made up of the regional rate. The overall increase in rate bills for 2017/18 will therefore be 1.73%.

1.5	This setting of the regional rate for 2017/18 will enable rates bills to be issued by Land and Property Services during May 2017.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note the regional rate increase for 2017/18 and the arrangements for the issue of rates bills for 2017/18.
3.0	Main report
3.1	The Northern Ireland (Ministerial Appointments and Regional Rates) Bill 2016-17 has set the regional rate for Northern Ireland for the year ending the 31 March 2018 at 32.92 pence in the pound for non-domestic properties and 0.4177 pence in the pound for domestic properties. This represents an increase of 1.61% on the 2016/17 regional rate.
3.2	Normally at the beginning of April of each year Land and Property Services (LPS) issues annual rate bills to homes and business across Northern Ireland. This year, the issue of bills have been delayed due to the regional rate being set at a later date than normal.
3.3	As legislation has now been passed to set the regional rate for 2017/18, LPS will issue rates bills during May 2017 giving ratepayers the choice of making payments by the usual 10 instalments. The bill will cover rates assessed from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018.
	Corporate Communications
3.4	An update on the setting of the regional rate and the key messages relating to the district rate will be included in the next edition of City Matters and the “How we use your rates” interactive web pages on the Belfast City Council web site has been updated and published on-line with the regional and district rate information and the 2017/18 service estimates information.
3.5	<u>Finance and Resource Implications</u> The delay in the setting of the regional rate does not affect the cash flow position of the Council as monthly district rate payments to the council by LPS are unaffected by the delay.
3.6	<u>Equality & Good Relations Implications</u> None.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None