



Subject:	Appointment of Members to the BCC/BHC Joint Consultative Forum
Date:	20th November, 2020
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Service Officer

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"/>
Sometime 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	To consider the process to be used to identify four Elected Members to be considered to fill four places on the Belfast City Council and Belfast Harbour Commissioner Joint Consultative Forum.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is recommended to employ a one-off proportionality exercise for the purpose of identifying the political nomination of four members for consideration to the Joint Consultative Forum.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	In June 2019, Members agreed to the strategic partnership agreement between Belfast City Council and Belfast Harbour Commissioners through the signing of Memorandum of understanding. The purpose of this MoU is to outline how BHC and BCC will work together

through a strategic partnership arrangement to realise their shared ambitions for the strong growth, regeneration and prosperity of the City.

3.2 A Project Board jointly chaired by the respective Chief Executives of BCC and BHC was established and met in January 2020 but, due to COVID19, is not due to meet again until December 2020. As part of the governance arrangements for this MOU, the parties agreed to establish a Joint Consultative Forum to inform projects and test the collective appetite to explore projects at the concept stage.

3.3 The Joint Consultative Forum will consist of four elected members from BCC and four Harbour Commissioners. The place of any member of the Joint Consultative Forum may be taken by a nominee of that member.

3.4 The S P and R Committee in June 2019 agreed that participation on the part of BCC in terms of membership of the Forum will be determined by d'Hondt, according to the group strength of the parties following the last local government election.

3.5 Applying a one-off d'Hondt or Sainte Lague selection process results in the following order of choices:

1	SF
2	DUP
3	ALL
4	SF

3.6 Members will note that the Forum is not a decision-making body and that decisions may only be taken through the formal governance arrangements of the parties. The Forum will be responsible for appointing its own chair and the parties agree to establish shared arrangements in relation to the secretariat for both the Project Board and Joint Consultative Forum.

Financial and Resource Implications

3.7 There are not any financial implications for the Council associated with this report.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

3.8 The approach to be employed to select Members for consideration for appointment to the Board of the Belfast Harbour Commissioners is in keeping with the principles of proportionality established in the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014. Therefore, there are no equality or good relations considerations associated with this report.

4.0 Documents Attached

None