LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTION
District of Newry, Mourne and Down

22 May 2014

MEDIA
INFORMATION PACK

Information on Election Candidates, the Election Process and the new Council of

Newry, Mourne and Down
## CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District Electoral Areas for the new Council of Newry, Mourne and Down</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Candidates</td>
<td>4-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timetable for Election Process</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Details</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media Guidance and Protocols</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Count Venue Details</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health &amp; Safety at the Count Venue</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evacuation Procedure at the Count Venue</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Appendices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appendix</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Appendix I</td>
<td>Notification of Requirement of Secrecy – Local Council Elections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix II</td>
<td>Notification of Requirement of Secrecy – European Election</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix III</td>
<td>Facts about the new Council of Newry, Mourne and Down</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix IV</td>
<td>Map of the new Council of Newry, Mourne and Down</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix V</td>
<td>Map of previous district boundaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix VI</td>
<td>Local Government Reform Key Facts, Figures and Q&amp;As</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix VII</td>
<td>List of functions transferring from central government departments to councils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix VIII</td>
<td>Statement of Person Nominated and Notice of Poll for all District Electoral Areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix IX</td>
<td>Notice of Appointments of Election Agents for all District Electoral Areas</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREAS FOR THE NEW COUNCIL OF NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN:

- Crotlieve
- Downpatrick
- The Mournes
- Newry
- Rowallane
- Slieve Croob
- Slieve Gullion
## CROTLIEVE (6 seats)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Party</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Michael Carr</td>
<td>SDLP (Social Democratic &amp; Labour Party)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sinéad Ennis</td>
<td>Sinn Féin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gillian Fitzpatrick</td>
<td>SDLP (Social Democratic &amp; Labour Party)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Gibbons</td>
<td>Sinn Féin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finbarr Lambe</td>
<td>Independent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Declan McAteer</td>
<td>SDLP (Social Democratic &amp; Labour Party)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilma McCullough</td>
<td>Democratic Unionist Party – DUP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connaire Thomas McGreevy</td>
<td>SDLP (Social Democratic &amp; Labour Party)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Mitchell</td>
<td>Ulster Unionist Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mickey Ruane</td>
<td>Sinn Féin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jarlath John Tinnelly</td>
<td>Independent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## DOWNPATRICK (5 seats)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Party</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Naomi Bailie</td>
<td>Sinn Féin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dermot Curran</td>
<td>SDLP (Social Democratic &amp; Labour Party)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cadogan Enright</td>
<td>Independent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graham Furey</td>
<td>Ulster Unionist Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Éamonn McConvey</td>
<td>Sinn Féin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colin McGrath</td>
<td>SDLP (Social Democratic &amp; Labour Party)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yvonne Moore</td>
<td>Democratic Unionist Party – DUP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gareth Sharvin</td>
<td>SDLP (Social Democratic &amp; Labour Party)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlie Casey</td>
<td>Sinn Féin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacinta Duffy</td>
<td>SDLP (Social Democratic &amp; Labour Party)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valerie Harte</td>
<td>Sinn Féin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Davy Hyland</td>
<td>Independent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liz Kimmins</td>
<td>Sinn Féin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joshua Lowry</td>
<td>Ulster Unionist Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Malone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin McAteer</td>
<td>SDLP (Social Democratic &amp; Labour Party)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Gerard McEvoy</td>
<td>SDLP (Social Democratic &amp; Labour Party)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gary John Stokes</td>
<td>SDLP (Social Democratic &amp; Labour Party)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terry Andrews</td>
<td>SDLP (Social Democratic &amp; Labour Party)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrick Brown</td>
<td>Alliance Party</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## NEWRY (6 seats)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Party</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charlie Casey</td>
<td>Sinn Féin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacinta Duffy</td>
<td>SDLP (Social Democratic &amp; Labour Party)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valerie Harte</td>
<td>Sinn Féin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Davy Hyland</td>
<td>Independent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liz Kimmins</td>
<td>Sinn Féin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joshua Lowry</td>
<td>Ulster Unionist Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Malone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin McAteer</td>
<td>SDLP (Social Democratic &amp; Labour Party)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Gerard McEvoy</td>
<td>SDLP (Social Democratic &amp; Labour Party)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gary John Stokes</td>
<td>SDLP (Social Democratic &amp; Labour Party)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terry Andrews</td>
<td>SDLP (Social Democratic &amp; Labour Party)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrick Brown</td>
<td>Alliance Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Burgess</td>
<td>Ulster Unionist Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mickey Coogan</td>
<td>Independent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## ROWALLANE (5 seats)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Party</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Terry Andrews</td>
<td>SDLP (Social Democratic &amp; Labour Party)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrick Brown</td>
<td>Alliance Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Burgess</td>
<td>Ulster Unionist Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mickey Coogan</td>
<td>Independent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terry Andrews</td>
<td>SDLP (Social Democratic &amp; Labour Party)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philip</td>
<td>Hamilton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harry</td>
<td>Harvey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eddie</td>
<td>Hughes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walter</td>
<td>Lyons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alistair</td>
<td>Straney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Billy</td>
<td>Walker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephen</td>
<td>Burns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audrey</td>
<td>Byrne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrick</td>
<td>Clarke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garth</td>
<td>Craig</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shane</td>
<td>King</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alan</td>
<td>Lewis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew</td>
<td>Morrison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark</td>
<td>Murnin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pól</td>
<td>Ó Gribin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desmond</td>
<td>Patterson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geraldine</td>
<td>Donnelly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terry</td>
<td>Hearty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dáire</td>
<td>Hughes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mickey</td>
<td>Larkin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kate</td>
<td>Loughran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lavelle</td>
<td>McIlwrath</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roisin</td>
<td>Mulgrew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barra</td>
<td>Ó Muirí</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David</td>
<td>Taylor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samuel</td>
<td>Clarke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laura</td>
<td>Devlin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sean</td>
<td>Doran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glyn</td>
<td>Hanna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annette</td>
<td>Holden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jill</td>
<td>Macauley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ciaran</td>
<td>McAvoy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harold</td>
<td>McKee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brian</td>
<td>Quinn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry</td>
<td>Reilly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TIMETABLE FOR ELECTION PROCESS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>7.00 am – 10.00 pm *</td>
<td>Polling</td>
<td>Electoral Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 May</td>
<td>10.00 pm onwards</td>
<td>Verification of Unused Ballot Papers (continue overnight if necessary)</td>
<td>Deputy Returning Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(or as soon as possible)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Media Liaison Officers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>8.00 am – midnight **</td>
<td>Verification of Used Ballot Papers; and the Counts will commence for the following DEAs</td>
<td>Media Liaison Officers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 May</td>
<td></td>
<td>as soon as possible after the verification is complete:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The Mournes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rowallane</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Slieve Gullion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Downpatrick</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Newry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Crotlieve</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Slieve Croob</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>9.00 am – Close</td>
<td>Count Continues</td>
<td>Media Liaison Officers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 May</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 May</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>8.00 am – Close</td>
<td>Count Continues (if necessary)</td>
<td>Media Liaison Officers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 May</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* This time will be extended to facilitate voters if they are already in queue at Polling Station.

** Count will continue beyond midnight provided Party approval has been granted.
LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTION
District of Newry, Mourne and Down 22 May 2014

CONTACT DETAILS

Deputy Returning Officer

• Mr John Dumigan

Assistant Deputy Returning Officers

• Mr Edward Curtis
• Mr Robert Dowey
• Mrs Marie Ward

MEDIA CONTACTS AND RESOURCES
For all media enquiries regarding the Local Council Election, 22 May 2014 please contact:

Media Liaison Officers

• Veronica Keegan - t: 078 0383 2511; e: marketing@downdc.gov.uk
• Regina Mackin – t: 077 5208 9417, e: regina.mackin@newryandmourne.gov.uk

www.downdc.gov.uk
www.newryandmourne.gov.uk

Down District Council
NewryandMourneDistrictCouncil

@DownDCofficial
@newrymournedc
MEDIA GUIDANCE AND PROTOCOLS

Counting The Votes
The Counting of votes in the Local Council Election for Newry, Mourne and Down will take place in the Sports Centre at 61 Patrick Street, Newry, County Down BT35 8TR, telephone 028 3031 3130.

Media accreditation
1. Accreditation is open to all news broadcast and news print media.
2. Media access to the Count Centre will be strictly controlled at all times and prior accreditation is required.
3. Please register your accreditation with the Media Liaison Officers, see page 7.

What access will the media have to the Count/Count Hall for the Local Council Election?
1. Media access to Count Centre will be strictly controlled at all times.
2. Admission will be from 8.00 am on Friday 23 May, Saturday 24 May and Bank Holiday Monday 26 May (as required).
3. Individuals must produce:
   - a current NUJ Card; or
   - a current photographic organisation pass; or
   - an original letter of authority from a print/broadcast organisation supported with a second form of photographic identification – such as a passport or Electoral Identity Card.
4. Members of the media will be required to sign in and wear photographic identification, for example organisation ID/NUJ pass, at all times. You may leave the hall at any time but if you do so you should ensure you have your identification for re-admission.
5. All attendees at the Count are required to have read the Notification of Requirement of Secrecy in Appendix I and II.
6. A Media Liaison Officer will be present throughout the Count and will be the first point of contact for media related enquiries.
7. Members of the media must abide by any direction given by the Deputy Returning Officer, the Assistant Deputy Returning Officers, Media Liaison Officers or any person acting on behalf of the Deputy Returning Officer.
8. The Media Liaison Officer will facilitate access to the Counting hall for a limited period to allow filming of the ballot box opening process.
9. Throughout the Count media will have access to an area, from which to film, that will enable a clear visual of Count proceedings.
10. Cameras or recording equipment (including phone cameras) will not be permitted to film close-ups of ballot papers or interfere with the Count process as this breaches the secrecy of the ballot.
11. Interviews with candidates are not permitted within the Count arena. However, every assistance will be provided by the Media Liaison Officer to ensure that candidates are informed of interview requests.
12. Everyone present must observe safety briefs and comply with reasonable requests from the Media Liaison Officer and/or Centre Managers.
13. The decision of the Deputy Returning Officer is final, and he is not required to allow any member of the media into the Count (unless they are also a candidate, candidate’s agent, counting agent or accredited observer).
What happens at the Count for the Local Council Election?
1. The Local Council Election Count will commence at 8.00 am on Friday 23 May 2014 or on completion of the verification of the ballot papers. **It is impossible to state with any certainty when the verification will be completed or at what time the Local Council Count will start. Broadcasters should bear this in mind when planning their schedules.**
2. Doubtful votes will be adjudicated at intervals during the Count. Announcements will be made when the adjudication takes place.
3. The Media will be advised as soon as practicable in advance of any announcements to allow preparation time for filming. This aspect will be managed by the Media Liaison Officer.
4. As soon as possible after the Count has been completed, the Returning Officer will declare the result.

When will the verification of ballot papers take place?
The verification of ballot papers for both the European Parliamentary Election and the Local Council Election will take place in the Count Venue for the Local Council Election. There are two parts to the verification process:

1. **Verification of unused ballot papers (ballot boxes will not be opened)**
   The verification of the unused ballot papers will commence after the close of the polls on Thursday 22 May 2014. This process will be managed by the Local Council Deputy Returning Officers or a person appointed by them.

2. **Verification of the used ballot papers (opening of ballot boxes)**
   Verification of the used ballot papers will commence at 8.00 am on Friday 23 May 2014 at the Local Council Count Venue.

The European Parliamentary Election and Local Council Election used ballot papers will be verified simultaneously. **It is impossible to state with any certainty when the verification will be completed or at what time the Local Council Counts will start. Broadcasters should bear this in mind when planning their schedules.**

The verification is a comparison of the number of ballot papers found in a ballot box compared with the number recorded as being issued by the polling staff (a ballot paper account).

If the number of ballot papers recorded on the ballot paper account and the physical checks corresponds, the verification of that box is complete. If they do not, the ballot papers will be recounted and the documentation checked until the Deputy Returning Officer is satisfied as to the actual number of ballot papers to be included in the Count. This process will continue until all the ballot boxes have been verified.

On completion of the verification stage the Local Council Deputy Returning Officer will announce the following:
- The eligible electorate
- The total votes polled
- The percentage turnout.

**Please note these figures will be for the Local Council Election only.** The verified Local Council ballot boxes will be resealed until they can be counted after the verification of all ballot boxes allocated to that Count Centre are completed.

When the verification process has been completed the European Parliamentary ballot boxes will be transferred to the King’s Hall Pavilions for secure storage until Monday 26 May 2014 when the Counting will commence. **Figures on the eligible electorate, total votes polled and the percentage turnout for the European Parliamentary Election will be collated for Northern Ireland after the verification process has been completed in full. Figures will be published on the EONI website and by social media as soon as practicable after the verification.**
How are the votes Counted for the Local Council Election?
The order in which each DEA will be counted will be advised by the Deputy Returning Officer. Ballot papers will be sorted into parcels for each candidate according to the first preference votes cast. Any ‘doubtful ballot papers’ will be set aside for adjudication. The number of votes for each candidate will be counted and the total is recorded along with the total number of valid ballot papers.

The total number of valid ballot papers is then divided by the number of candidates to be elected plus one. This will then provide the quota needed for a candidate to be elected eg

\[ Q = \left\{ \frac{\text{total valid votes}}{\text{total number of seats in the DEA} + 1} \right\} + 1 \]

Any candidate who reaches or exceeds the quota is deemed elected.

The next stages of the Count will involve either the transfer of the surplus votes from a candidate deemed to be elected or the exclusion of one or more candidates with the least votes.

If any stage the number of continuing candidates equals the number of seats to be filled, then such candidates are deemed elected. Doubtful votes will be adjudicated at intervals during the Count. An announcement will be made when the adjudication takes place.

The candidate with the least number of votes is then eliminated and their votes are redistributed in a similar way. This process continues until all seats have been filled.

On completion of each stage of the Count, the Deputy Returning Officer will tell the candidates and agents the outcome and allow them to request a recount.

The Deputy Returning Officer will allow a maximum of five minutes for candidates and agents to attend.

At the end of that time, unless a recount is required, he shall proceed to the next stage of the Count.

The Deputy Returning Officer is obliged to conduct one re-count if requested, but may refuse further recounts. Only the most recent completed stage can be recounted.

As soon as possible after the Count, Deputy Returning Officer will declare the result.

When are postal votes opened?
Electoral Office staff will open postal ballot packs returned up to and on polling day to check the accompanying personal identifiers. At these opening sessions, the ballot papers must remain face down and Election staff will not count these votes at these sessions. The counting of postal votes takes place at the same time as votes cast in polling stations.

Is electronic counting used?
No. Votes are counted by hand by appointed counting staff at these Elections.
COUNT VENUE DETAILS

Local Council Election Count Centre details
Sports Centre
61 Patrick Street
Newry
County Down
BT35 8TR
telephone 028 3031 3130

Region to be counted
Newry, Mourne and Down

Returning Officer
John Dumigan

Admission to the Count Centre
Admission is permitted from 8.00 am

Start time
9.00 am

Key contacts

Media Liaison Officers
Veronica Keegan
t: 078 0383 2511
e: marketing@downdc.gov.uk

Regina Mackin
t: 077 5208 9417
e: regina.mackin@newryandmourne.gov.uk

Parking facilities
Onsite parking is available

Media area
The Media Centre will be located in a separate designated area
located on a mezzanine level above the main Count Hall.

Accreditation details
Prior media accreditation is required. This can be done online
www.eoni.org.uk/Elections/Media-Centre/Media-Accreditation-
Form. Please forward your details to the Media Liaison Officers
(see Contacts Details, p7).
HEALTH AND SAFETY AT THE COUNT VENUE

- The Sports Centre has full disabled access.
- There is a No Smoking and No Alcohol policy in place.
- There is a First Aid area within the Count Centre.
- Council staff are available to assist and ensure that the Centre is evacuated safely in the event of an Emergency.

EVACUATION PROCEDURE - MAIN HALL, COUNT CENTRE

- There are no planned tests of the Fire Alarm during the duration of the Count.
- In the event of the Fire Alarm sounding you are to leave the Sports Centre immediately by the nearest Fire Exit and make your way to the assembly area at the Sports Centre.
- You are to remain in the assembly area unless you are directed to somewhere else by either Deputy Returning Officer or Assistant Deputy Returning Officers.
- You are not to re-enter the building until told to do so.
Your attention is drawn to the relevant provisions of paragraph 27 of Schedule 9 to the Electoral Law Act (Northern Ireland) 1962 which apply to this election, and in particular to the maximum penalty for anyone guilty of an electoral offence. Level 5 is currently set at £5,000. It is the policy of the Chief Electoral Officer to report to the police any person suspected of breaking any of these provisions.

Polling Station
Paragraph 27 (1) A person attending at or admitted to a polling station in any capacity at an election shall be guilty of an electoral offence if before the poll is closed he communicates to any other person any information as to—
(a) the name of any elector or proxy who has or has not applied for a ballot paper or voted at a polling station; or
(b) the number on the register of any elector who, or whose proxy, has or has not applied for a ballot paper or voted at a polling station; or
(c) the official mark.

Paragraph 27 (3) A person shall be guilty of an electoral offence if he—
(a) interferes with or attempts to interfere with a voter when recording his vote; or
(b) otherwise obtains or attempts to obtain in a polling station information as to the candidate for whom a voter in that station is about to vote or has voted; or
(c) communicates at any time to any person any information obtained in a polling station as to the candidate for whom a voter in that station is about to vote or has voted, or as to the number or other unique identifying mark on the back of the ballot paper issued to a voter at that station; or
(d) directly or indirectly induces a voter to display his ballot paper after he has marked it so as to make known to any person the name of the candidate for whom he has or has not voted; or
(e) being a person permitted, on making the declaration made by the companion of a voter with disabilities, to remain with a voter with disabilities while the presiding officer records his vote, communicates at any time to any person any information as to the candidate for whom that voter intends to vote or has voted, or as to the number or other unique identifying mark on the back of the ballot paper issued for use of that voter.

Issue and receipt of postal ballot papers
Paragraph 27 (4) Any person attending the proceedings in connection with the issue or receipt of ballot papers for persons voting by post shall be guilty of an electoral offence if he—
(a) communicates, before the poll is closed, to any person any information obtained at those proceedings as to the official mark; or
(b) except for some purpose authorised by law, communicates to any person at any time any information obtained at those proceedings as to the number or other unique identifying mark on the back of the ballot paper sent to any person; or
(c) except for some purpose authorised by law, attempts to ascertain at the proceedings in connection with the receipt of ballot papers the number or other unique identifying mark on the back of any ballot paper; or
(d) attempts to ascertain at the proceedings in connection with the receipt of the ballot papers the candidate for whom any vote is given in any particular ballot paper or communicates any information with respect thereto obtained at those proceedings.

Count
Paragraph 27 (2) Any person attending in any capacity at the count at any election shall be guilty of an electoral offence if he—
(a) ascertains or attempts to ascertain at the count the number or other unique identifying mark on the back of any ballot paper; or
(b) at any time communicates any information obtained at the count as to the candidate for whom any vote is given on any particular ballot paper.

Section 111 (2A) (d) in the case of an offence under paragraph 27 of Schedule 9, a person guilty of an electoral offence at a local election shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 6 on the standard scale or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 8 months.
Your attention is drawn to Regulation 30 of the European Parliamentary Elections (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2004, and in particular to the maximum penalty set out in sub-paragraph (7) for anyone found guilty of this offence. Level 5 is currently set at €5000. It is the policy of the Chief Electoral Officer to report to the police any person suspected of breaking any of these provisions.

### Polling Station

1. The following persons –
   a. the returning officer and every presiding officer or clerk attending at a polling station,
   b. every candidate or election agent or polling agent so attending,
   c. every person so attending by virtue of any of sections 6A to 6D of the 2000 Act shall maintain and aid in maintaining the secrecy of voting and shall not, except for some purpose authorised by law, communicate to any person before the poll is closed any information as to –
      i. the name of any elector or proxy for an elector who has or has not applied for a ballot paper or voted at a polling station;
      ii. the number on the register of electors of any elector who, or whose proxy, has or has not applied for a ballot paper or voted at a polling station; or
      iii. the official mark.

2. No person shall –
   a. interfere with or attempt to interfere with a voter when recording his vote;
   b. otherwise obtain or attempt to obtain in a polling station information as to the way in which a voter in that station is about to vote or has voted;
   c. communicate at any time to any person any information obtained in a polling station as to the way in which a voter in that station is about to vote or has voted, or as to the number or other unique identifying mark on the back of the ballot paper given to a voter at that station;
   d. directly or indirectly use or that display his ballot paper after he has marked it so as to make known to any person the way in which he has voted.

3. No person having undertaken to assist a voter with disabilities to vote shall communicate at any time to any person any information as to the way in which that voter intends to vote or has voted, or as to the number or other unique identifying mark on the back of the ballot paper given for the use of that voter.

### Issue and receipt of postal ballot papers

4. Every person attending the proceedings in connection with the issue or the receipt of ballot papers for persons voting by post shall maintain and aid in maintaining the secrecy of the voting and shall not –
   a. except for some purpose authorised by law, communicate, before the poll is closed, to any person any information obtained at those proceedings as to the official mark; or
   b. except for some purpose authorised by law, communicate to any person at any time any information obtained at those proceedings as to the number or other unique identifying mark on the back of the ballot paper sent to any person; or
   c. except for some purpose authorised by law, attempt to ascertain at the proceedings in connection with the receipt of ballot papers the number or other unique identifying mark on the back of any ballot paper; or
   d. attempt to ascertain at the proceedings in connection with the receipt of the ballot papers the way in which any vote is given in any particular ballot paper or communicate any information with respect thereto obtained at those proceedings.

### Count

5. Every person attending at the verification of the ballot paper accounts or the counting of the votes shall maintain and aid in maintaining the secrecy of voting and shall not –
   a. ascertain or attempt to ascertain at the counting of the votes the number or other unique identifying mark on the back of any ballot paper;
   b. communicate any information obtained at the verification of the ballot paper accounts or the counting of the votes as to the way in which any vote is given on any particular ballot paper.

6. No person attending at the verification of the ballot paper accounts shall express to any person an opinion based on information obtained at that verification as to the likely result of the election.

7. If a person acts in contravention of this regulation he shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 6 on the standard scale or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months.
SOME INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE NEW COUNCIL OF NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN:

- After 2015, we will be the 3rd largest Council in Northern Ireland.
- We will have a combined population of approximately 167,000 citizens.
- Based on the 2001 Census, our population is expected to increase to 200,000 citizens by 2021.
- In the new Council it is approximately 50 miles from Saintfield in the north to Crossmaglen in the south, and approximately 60 miles from Strangford in the east to Newtownhamilton in the west.
- The main Belfast to Dublin transport corridor runs through the new Council area with all the important economic benefits that come with it.
- We have three areas of outstanding natural beauty – Strangford & Lecale, Slieve Gullion, and the Mournes.
- We have two major hospitals – Daisy Hill in Newry and the Downe in Downpatrick.
- Both Councils have jointly developed mountain bike trails in Castlewellan and Rostrevor Forest Parks.
- We will have 41 Councillors representing 41 wards.
MAP OF THE NEW COUNCIL OF NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN

Appendix IV
Local Council Election
District of Newry, Mourne and Down

22 May 2014

Appendix V

Map of Previous District Boundaries

Existing and new local government districts

District index
26 existing local government districts
11 new local government districts

- Antrim and Newtownabbey
- Mid and East Antrim
- Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon
- Belfast
- Causeway Coast and Glens
- Derry and Strabane
- Fermanagh and Omagh
- Mid Ulster
- Newry, Mourne and Down
- North Down and Ards
- Lisburn and Castlereagh

This material is based upon Crown Copyright and is reproduced with the permission of the Chief Executive of Land & Property Services
under Delegated Authority from the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright and database right (2013)
LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM

- KEY DATES, FIGURES AND Q & A’s

22 May 2014 – date of local government elections to 11 new councils
1 April 2015 – date the 11 new councils take over from the current 26
councils
582 – number of councillors in the current 26 councils
462 – number of councillors that will be elected to the 11 new councils

www.nidirect.gov.uk/newcouncils - website people can go to for more information

Why is local government reform happening?
- To modernise local government and improve services.
- To create stronger, more effective local government.
- As well as being bigger, the new councils will deliver additional services and have other new responsibilities and powers. Combined with their existing functions, this will give them some powerful tools to shape their areas and communities.
  - It will allow them to be more creative in delivering services.
  - It will allow them to be more flexible and responsive to local needs.
  - It will bring power closer to citizens.
  - There are also financial benefits to running 11 councils instead of 26.

What new responsibilities will my Council have?
- A number of functions currently delivered by NI Executive departments will be carried out by councils. These include:
  - local planning
  - urban regeneration
  - community development
  - local economic and tourism development
  - off street parking.
- Councils will also lead a community planning process. This will be done in partnership with other public service providers in order to collectively address local problems.
- It is also proposed in the Local Government Bill (see Question 12) that Councils will have a new General Power of Competence. This will allow a council to act with similar freedom to an individual, unless there is a law to prevent it from doing so. It would allow a council to act in its own interest and develop innovative approaches to addressing issues in its area.
Once elected in May, what will the new councils do before taking over from the current councils on 1 April 2015?

- During this period, the 11 new councils will operate in shadow form alongside the current 26 councils. This is known as the ‘shadow period’ and will allow them to make preparations to take over on 1 April 2015. Preparations include:
  
  - Leading cooperation between merging councils
  - designing their new organisational and service delivery structures
  - appointing senior staff to the new councils from the staff of the old councils
  - approving business and financial plans for the new councils
  - setting rates for 2015/16.

What will the current councils do during the shadow period?
It will be business as usual for the current 26 councils. They will continue to operate as normal, delivering all of their usual services and looking after all existing council matters.

What will the new councils be called?
The names of the new local government districts were set out in the Local Government (Boundaries) Act (NI) 2008 - see list below. However, the councils will not be restricted to using these names. After the local government elections the councils will be able to change their names.

There are a number of issues to be considered including the district name and the council’s status - whether it will be a district council, borough council or, in some cases, a city council. See Question 6.

Names of the 11 new local government districts:

- Antrim and Newtownabbey District
- Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon District
- Belfast District
- Causeway Coast and Glens District
- Derry and Strabane District
- Fermanagh and Omagh District
- Lisburn and Castlereagh District
- Mid and East Antrim District
- Mid Ulster District
- Newry, Mourne and Down District
- North Down and Ards District

Explain more about applying for city council or borough council status.
All 11 new councils will initially be established as ‘district councils’. A new council will be able to opt to continue the charter of an existing council within its district (if it resolves to do so) or apply to the Secretary of State for the grant of borough status to the new district. City status is awarded by the Queen. As such, a council is not able to ‘apply’ to become a city council; it may only use this term if a city falls within its district boundary. Steps will be taken to ensure that the status of Northern Ireland’s five cities is protected following local government reform. New councils which have a city within their new district will be able to call themselves city councils.
Where can I find out which new council area I live or work in?
Visit www.nidirect.gov.uk/newcouncils and enter your address.

Where will the new councils have their headquarters?
This will be decided by the new councils once elected.

What help is being given to staff and councillors to prepare them for the changes and develop their knowledge and skills?
DOE is funding a programme of capacity building and training for staff and councillors to help ensure a seamless transfer of functions and responsibilities to councils in April 2015.

DOE has also provided a programme of guidance to help prepare councils for the new duty of community planning. In addition, it has contracted Community Places to further support councils in their community planning preparations. This will help councils develop and refine their practical working arrangements, and assist them build new relationships with key stakeholders in their area.

Will there be redundancies and will council staff have to apply for their own jobs?
- On 1 April 2015 all employees of an existing council will automatically be transferred to become employees of the new council. They will transfer under TUPE-type protections, retaining their current terms and conditions.
  All transfers will follow the Third Guiding Principle from the Compendium of Principles, Practice and Guidance Notes published by the Public Service Commission and the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister.

- Only staff who are in positions where the amalgamation has resulted in a clear surplus could potentially be adversely impacted. For example, if three councils are merging, there will be three Finance Directors coming into the new council but a need for only one. The Local Government Reform Joint Forum (a management and Trade Union consultation body) is developing a number of mechanisms to deal with this scenario. DOE and the local government employers are committed to taking every possible measure to avoid any redundancy situation and will work with the Trade Unions to secure employment and reduce the likelihood of compulsory redundancies.

- It is envisaged that when the organisational design of the new councils is implemented, there will be a need to create new roles that adversely impacted staff could access. They will also be able to avail of the severance scheme being agreed by the Joint Forum.

- Local Government has been effectively managing its workforce to prepare for reform. For example, as positions become vacant, where possible these have remained unfilled or filled only on a temporary basis to reduce the impact of potential redundancies.

Will rates be affected in 2015/16 because of the changes?
When setting the 2015/16 rates, we will move from 26 levels of rates to 11. It is unavoidable that adjustments will need to be made, however the NI Executive has committed up to £30 million for a rates relief scheme. This means that any rates increases will be kept to a minimum.

More information will be made available by DFP, DOE and the new councils ahead of 1 April 2015. In the longer term, reducing the number of councils and new ways of working will enable councils to make savings, benefitting the ratepayer.
What reforms are included in the Local Government Bill?
The Bill provides the legislative basis for local government reform. Among the reforms included in it are:

- New governance arrangements for councils – for the first time, sharing council positions of responsibility across political parties and independents will be enshrined in law. The public will also now have more access to council meetings and documents.
- New ethical standards regime - there will be a mandatory code of conduct for councillors.
- New council-led community planning process – partnership with other public service providers to develop and implement a vision for the economic, social and environmental well-being of the district.
- General power of competence – gives councils the power to do anything that individuals generally can do that is not prohibited by other laws. The aim is to develop innovative approaches to improving the economic, social and environmental well-being of their area.
- Performance improvement to deliver high quality, efficient services – including the requirement for councils to report annually on performance.
- Establishing a partnership panel - made up of Executive Ministers and elected representatives from the councils to discuss matters of mutual interest.
- End dual mandate - by placing a bar on MLAs, MPs and MEPs from also being elected or being councillors.

Find Out More
Local government reform - for more information and to watch the story of local government reform in a short video format, visit www.nidirect.gov.uk/newcouncils
LIST OF FUNCTIONS TRANSFERRING FROM CENTRAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS TO COUNCILS

Planning (DOE)
- Local development plan functions
- Development control and enforcement

Roads (DRD)
- Off street parking (except Park and Ride).

Urban regeneration and community development (DSD)
- Town and city regeneration;
- Area-based regeneration
- Support for the voluntary and community sectors at local level.

Housing (DSD)
- Housing unfitness
- Houses in multiple occupation

Laganside (DSD)
- Function will transfer to Belfast City Council.

Local Economic development (transfer from Invest NI) (DETI)
- Start a Business Programme and Enterprise Shows
- Youth Entrepreneurship (such as Prince’s Trust and Shell Livewire)
- Social Entrepreneurship
- Investing for Women
- Neighbourhood Renewal funding relating to enterprises initiatives.

Local Tourism (DETI)
- Small scale tourism accommodation development
- Providing business support including business start up advice along with training and delivery of customer care schemes
- Providing advice to developers on tourism policies and related issues

Other
- Authority to Spot List to enable Councils to add a building to the statutory list on a temporary basis, subject to ratification by the DOE (DOE)
- Authority to draw up local lists of buildings that are of architectural and/or historic interest (DOE)
- Armagh County Museum (DCAL)
- Local water recreational facilities (DCAL)
- Local sports; (greater involvement of local government in local sports decisions); (DCAL)
- Donaghadee Harbour (DRD)
NOTES

MEDIA CONTACTS AND RESOURCES

For all media enquiries regarding the Local Council Elections, 22 May 2014 please contact:

Media Liaison Officers
- Veronica Keegan - t: 078 0383 2511; e: marketing@downdc.gov.uk
- Regina Mackin – t: 077 5208 9417, e: regina.mackin@newryandmourne.gov.uk