

**REPORT OF ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER, KAT HEALY,  
ON THE COMMISSIONER'S PROVISIONAL  
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE NORTH EAST LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT DISTRICT**

**27 February 2007**

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## Background

**1.1** The start of the current review of local government boundaries in Northern Ireland was announced in a Public Notice on 9 June 2006, which explained the role and remit of the Local Government Boundaries Commissioner, and advised that in due course the Commissioner would publish Provisional Recommendations and cause a public hearing to be held in each of the seven proposed new local government districts. The Notice also explained the process of public consultation on the Provisional Recommendations whereby interested parties would have the opportunity to comment on and contribute to the review.

**1.2** The terms of the review are set out in the Local Government (Boundaries) (Northern Ireland) Order 2006. A copy of the Order is available on [www.lgbc-ni.org/index/legislation.htm](http://www.lgbc-ni.org/index/legislation.htm) or from Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

**1.3** The Provisional Recommendations for the boundaries and names of the seven new local government districts and in respect of the number, boundaries and names of their constituent wards were formally announced at the Ramada Hotel, Belfast on 7 November 2006 and simultaneously published on the office website, [www.lgbc-ni.org/index/publications.org](http://www.lgbc-ni.org/index/publications.org). A Public Notice of the Provisional Recommendations, together with details of the programme of public hearings, was published on 8 November 2006 in a number of daily and provincial newspapers. Copies of the Provisional Recommendations, including detailed maps, were made available for public inspection at all district council headquarter offices, the Electoral Office and Area Electoral Offices, all public libraries and at the office of the Electoral Commission in Northern Ireland and that of the Local Government Boundaries Commissioner on 8 November 2006.

**1.4** The Public Notice of 8 November 2006 invited written representations with respect to the Provisional Recommendations within an eight-week public consultation period. The closing date for written representations was 5 January 2007.

**1.5** The Commissioner received 92 written representations from a range of interested parties including political parties and political representatives, district councils, community organisations and individual members of the public. All representations were acknowledged giving details of the public hearings and have been published on the Commissioner's office website, and were made available for viewing at each of the public hearing venues.

**1.6** On 2 January 2007, I was appointed as an Assistant Commissioner by the Minister of the Environment, David Cairns MP. My task is to assess and report on the representations and hearing on the Commissioner's Provisional Recommendations in relation to one of the seven proposed local government

districts and to submit a report to the Commissioner, to include conclusions and recommendations, within four weeks of the end of the relevant public hearing. Subsequent to my appointment, I was invited by the Commissioner to conduct a public hearing into the Commissioner's Provisional Recommendations affecting the proposed North East Local Government District incorporating Ballymena, Ballymoney, Coleraine, Larne and Moyle.

## **Written Representations**

**1.7** Written submissions of relevance to the Provisional Recommendations for the district are listed (in alphabetical order) in Appendix A. All representations were considered by me in advance of the public hearing, and

**1.8** The public hearing into the Provisional Recommendations in the proposed North East Local Government District commenced in the Coleraine Campus of the University of Ulster, Cromore Road, Coleraine on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2007 at 9.30 AM and concluded on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2007 at 2.15 PM. Twelve people attended the hearing with eleven oral submissions being made. Eight of the participants had already submitted their representation in writing during the eight-week public consultation period. It was conducted in an informal manner where all participants were afforded the opportunity to give their views and to question and discuss the viewpoints of others. All aspects of the Provisional Recommendations relating to the North East were discussed to ensure full consideration and examination was given to the Commissioner's provisional recommendations. Details of those who made oral submissions are attached at Appendix B.

## **Content of Report**

**1.9** This Report presents and addresses the written and oral views of interested parties on the Provisional Recommendations for the proposed North East Local Government District. In particular it addresses relevant local information and opinion on the boundary and name of the district and the number, boundaries and names of the wards into which the district has been divided and details support of, objections to or counterproposals in relation to the Provisional Recommendations. It also presents my recommendations and conclusions on the representations, views and opinions based on the legislative framework for the review and in particular the statutory rules as set out in Part III of Schedule I to the Local Government (Boundaries) (Northern Ireland) Order 2006.

## **2. DISTRICT REPRESENTATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**2.1** This section includes discussion of the written representations on the North East Local Government District's boundary and name, as well as comments received at the hearing. I then provide recommendations detailing the effects of these written and oral submissions on the Commissioner's Provisional Recommendations

### **North East District Name**

**2.2** Several names were proposed for this Local Government District. Cllr Ian Stevenson (Ballymoney) proposed the name "Dalriada Council", in both written and oral representations, citing the connection of this part of Northern Ireland to the ancient Dalriada Kingdom.

**2.3** In written submissions, Mr Patrick G. Murphy proposed the name "Causeway and Glens", and Moyle District Council suggested the name "Causeway Coast and Glens". At the public hearing, Cllr Maurice Mills (Ballymena) suggested the inclusion of Slemish in this name, so that the full new name would be "Causeway Coast, Glens and Slemish".

**2.4** There was broad consensus at the hearing that none of these proposed names fully embraced all of the areas (e.g. Dalriada may exclude Larne, Ballymena and part of Ballymoney; Causeway Coast and Glens excludes Ballymena and Ballymoney; and Causeway Coast, Glens and Slemish was felt to be overly long and still does not include all of Ballymoney). For that reason, I am not recommending the adoption of any of these suggestions as a new name for the North East.

*Recommendation: The district's name should remain "North East Local Government District".*

### **North East District Boundaries**

**2.5** All the written and oral representations in relation to the North East district boundaries were concerned with the area at Magilligan Strand and the boundary between the North East and North West districts.

**2.6** In written representations, William T. Houston, Cllr Ian Stevenson (Ballymoney) and Mr Maurice Bradley (on behalf of Alpha Northern Newspaper Group) all stated their agreement with the Commissioner's provisional recommendation to recognise Magilligan Strand as a single natural feature and, thus, locate it within one local government district. However, these three representations advocated that the entirety of Magilligan Strand should remain within the North East District, rather than the North West District.

**2.7** Mr Houston's reason for this was so that Magilligan Strand could be linked with the rest of the Antrim coast and its seaside resorts.

**2.8** Mr Bradley referred to local identity and the association of specific features (namely, Downhill Castle, Mussenden Temple and Downhill) with the Coleraine area, as well as Coleraine's "expertise and experience in beach management and coastal tourism".

**2.9** Cllr Stevenson presented an oral representation (in a personal capacity, rather than on behalf of Ballymoney Council), in which he advocated the retention of the whole of Magilligan Strand within the North East district to maintain the integrity of the coastline from Larne to Magilligan Strand in order to "preserve the local sense of identity" and "promote the tourism industry", potential and capacity of the region.

**2.10** Several other submissions focused on redrawing the boundary line between the North East and North West Districts to incorporate a larger portion of Magilligan Strand within the North East, centring around particular local features of the area.

**2.11** The Alliance Party's written submission highlighted the close association of Mussenden Temple with the Castlerock and wider Coleraine area and suggested that the boundary "be extended a little further to return this historic monument into the Council containing Castlerock and Coleraine".

**2.12** Mr Stephen Barr's written submission suggested that the boundary "should run along the centre of the Downhill Road as far as the beach" so that Mussenden Temple would be included in the North East District.

**2.13** Mr Trevor Surgenor (National Trust North Coast Members' Association) submitted an oral representation advocating that Mussenden Temple and the National Trust's Downhill Estate remained within the Castlerock ward and the North East District due to being "geographically and historically linked to the area".

**2.14** Coleraine Borough Council submitted written and oral representations stating that "to achieve clarity in the management of this natural feature [Magilligan Strand] it is both wholly unnecessary and fundamentally inappropriate to define a boundary line which excludes the Mussenden Temple, the Downhill Estate and Forest from the proposed new Castlerock ward within the North East District". Coleraine Borough Council cited local community identity, the potential for regional marketing through the Causeway Coast and Glens Tourism Partnership and the maximisation of tourism marketing within Northern Ireland as reasons for retaining these features within the North East district. Coleraine Borough Council provided three options (with three respective maps) for redrawing the boundaries at Magilligan Strand: (i) The first alternative boundary followed the southern railway property boundary from the existing Coleraine Borough Council boundary to the entrance to the railway tunnel below Mussenden Temple, with a small deviation to include the beach entrance and toilet block. (ii) The second alternative boundary followed Bishops Road and transferred to the southern railway property boundary on the eastern side of the beach entrance

to the railway tunnel below Mussenden Temple. (iii) The third alternative boundary followed Burrenmore Road via Drumagully Road and Bishops Road transferring to the southern boundary of the railway property on the eastern side of the beach entrance to the railway tunnel below Mussenden Temple. Coleraine Borough Council stated that the third option was their preferred alternative.

**2.15** All those present at the public hearing who had commented on the redrawing of the boundary at Magilligan Strand were asked to examine the maps provided by Coleraine Borough Council and they each agreed that the third option was the preferred alternative.

**2.16** Some issues mentioned in favour of retaining all or part of Magilligan Strand within the North East District, such as tourism potential and the past experience of a particular district in managing certain local features for example, are not within the legislative remit of the Review of Northern Ireland Local Government Boundaries. However, the Commissioner's proposed recommendations to locate Magilligan Strand in the North West District in order to preserve the integrity of a single natural feature would be unaffected by changing the boundary to the third option suggested by Coleraine Borough Council. This proposed boundary change preserves the integrity of another single natural feature (i.e. Downhill Forest), which is divided in half by the Commissioner's proposed boundary. Furthermore, the impact on the electorate of the two wards concerned (Castlerock in the North East District and Magilligan in the North West District) is not numerically significant in that the boundary revision only transfers 28 electors from Magilligan to Castlerock. For these reasons, I am recommending that the boundary between the North East and North West Districts (Castlerock and Magilligan wards) be revised in line with the third option proposed by Coleraine Borough Council

**2.17** *Recommendation: The boundary between the North East and North West Districts (Castlerock and Magilligan wards) should be revised to incorporate the entirety of Downhill Forest, as well as Downhill Estate including Mussenden Temple, within the North East district (Castlerock ward).*

### **3. WARD REPRESENTATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**3.1** This section includes summaries of the written representations on the ward boundaries, names and numbers and comments received at the hearing on these issues. I then provide recommendations detailing the effects of these proposals on the Commissioner's Provisional Recommendations. For ease of reference, the written/oral representations and recommendations are presented under subheadings that correspond to the current District/Borough Councils that fall within the North East Local Government District.

#### **Ballymena**

**3.2** Two written submissions and one oral representation were received concerning the proposed Braid ward in Ballymena. M. Watterson on behalf of Ballymena Borough Council submitted a written representation stating that the name of the Braid ward had been considered at the Council's January meeting and that it was agreed that the Council would recommend that the ward be renamed "Ballykeel", but that the three nationalist members of council had voted in opposition to this proposal.

**3.3** Cllr Maurice Mills (Ballymena) submitted an oral representation in which he also advocated the renaming of the proposed Braid ward as "Ballykeel". He stated that the proposed ward name must have come from the Braid River, but that the name "Braid" on its own had little local significance to the area, which is comprised of three townlands: Summerfield, Dunfane and Ballykeel. "Braid", he stated, is usually used in reference to an area "east of Ballymena [that] does not impinge in any way upon this particular area you are referring to". He stated that Ballykeel makes up the most central part of this proposed ward and so should be reflected in the ward name.

**3.4** Cllr Declan O'Loan (Ballymena) submitted a written representation stating his opposition to the Council's proposal to rename the Braid ward "Ballykeel". His reasons for objecting to the proposal were that, "Ballykeel is only one part of the ward, would not be regarded as naturally referring to any larger area and, unfortunately, being the name of a large, almost entirely Protestant, Housing Executive estate, would not sit well with the entire ward." Cllr O'Loan suggested "Braidwater" and "Showgrounds" as more neutral alternatives that had significance to the local area.

**3.5** The Commissioner states his intentions regarding ward names in section 5.4 of his Provisional Recommendations Report as follows: "Where possible, current ward names have been retained, but where this has not been possible (due, for example, to amalgamations) I have sought to propose a name of relevance to the locality." Of the proposed names for this ward (Braid, Ballykeel, Braidwater and Showgrounds), only one (Ballykeel) is currently a ward name. However, the current ward of Ballykeel refers to a substantially different (and considerably smaller) area than the proposed ward of Braid. For this reason, in keeping with the Commissioner's stated

intentions, I recommend the name “Braidwater” for this proposed ward. This is the alternative that seems to capture the most relevance to the locality as it clearly refers to the river which runs through the area, rather than specifically to the Braid area (described as “a country area between Broughshane and Carnlough” and an area “east of Ballymena [that] does not impinge in any way upon this particular area refer[ed] to”).

*Recommendation: The proposed Braid ward should be renamed “Braidwater”.*

## **Larne**

**3.6** Larne Borough Council submitted written and oral representations with a substantial number of changes to the boundaries and names of proposed wards within the Borough of Larne. While it is not possible to follow each of these proposals exactly due to constraints with keeping the electorate of each ward within a 10% variance, it was possible to take account of most of the Council’s proposals ensuring that the criteria of size, population, physical diversity and urban/rural representation are met. Substantial changes to proposed ward names were also suggested and these are taken into account with regard to the Commissioner’s stated intentions of utilising existing ward names, where relevant and appropriate, or using names with relevance to the local area. Larne Borough Council’s proposals are summarised below, followed by related recommendations and a summary of the differences these would make *in toto* to the Commissioner’s provisional recommendations.

**3.7** Larne Borough Council made several proposals in their written and oral submissions relating to planned housing developments and derelict properties and their impact on the electorate within wards. These issues cannot be taken into account in any of the cases referred to, as the Rules set out in Part III of Schedule I to the Local Government (Boundaries) (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 specify that recommendations shall be based on the Register of Electors in force on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2005.

**3.8** Larne Borough Council stated that the name of the proposed Carnlough ward did not take into account that this proposed ward also incorporates the community (and current ward) of Glenarm. These two very distinct communities have used the joint name of “Glenlough” in the naming of local community facilities and Larne BC suggested that the proposed Carnlough ward be renamed “Glenlough” to incorporate both areas/communities. The Commissioner’s stated intention of using ward names with relevance to a given locality may be fulfilled by using this combined name; if not, the option of using both place names could be considered, renaming the proposed ward “Glenarm and Carnlough”.

*Recommendation: The proposed Carnlough ward should be renamed “Glenlough” if the combined name is deemed to fit within the stated aim of “relevance to the locality”. Otherwise, if the combined name is deemed to be an artificial construct, the proposed Carnlough ward should be renamed “Glenarm and Carnlough”.*

**3.9** Larne BC suggested that part of Carnalbanagh village at the south west tip of the proposed Carnlough ward be included in the proposed Ballygally ward, rather than having the rural hamlet split between the two wards. Moving the boundary to take the full Carnalbanagh area into the proposed Ballygally ward would involve the transfer of 182 electors, but is still in keeping with the 10% variance guidance.

*Recommendation: Move the south west boundary of the proposed Carnlough ward so that the entire rural hamlet of Carnalbanagh is situated in the proposed Ballygally ward.*

**3.10** Larne BC suggested that the proposed Ballygally ward be renamed Cairncastle, stating that, “Ballygally is an area along the coastline and is not recognised or identifiable to any of the residents who would live more inland. Indeed, the centre of the proposed ward is the townland known as Cairncastle. It is known by the wider community and it is recognised both in church parishes, as well as townlands.” In keeping with the principle of names with relevance to the locality, I recommend that the proposed Ballygally ward be renamed “Cairncastle”.

*Recommendation: The proposed Ballygally ward to be renamed as “Cairncastle”.*

**3.11** Larne Borough Council suggested that the boundary between the proposed Blackcave and Ballygally wards be revised so that all of Seacourt estate and Blackcave would be within the Blackcave ward. If this was not possible, they suggested altering the boundary slightly so that Seacourt Community Centre and playing fields are in the same ward as Seacourt estate. Moving the boundary to fully incorporate all of Blackcave and Seacourt estate within the proposed Blackcave ward is not possible within the 10% variance guidance. However, altering the boundary so that Seacourt Community Centre and playing fields are in the proposed Ballygally ward with the rest of Seacourt estate only involves a transfer of five electors, so I recommend that this slight alteration to the boundary between the proposed Blackcave and Ballygally wards be made around Seacourt Community Centre and playing fields.

*Recommendation: Move the boundary between the proposed Blackcave and Ballygally wards at Seacourt Community Centre and playing fields so that Seacourt estate is in the same ward as its facilities.*

**3.12** This boundary shift still does not incorporate the Blackcave landmark within the proposed Blackcave ward, so Larne BC suggested that the ward be renamed “Ferris”, “Sallagh” or “Town Parks”. In keeping with the Commissioner’s stated intention to use current ward names insofar as practical, and since Town Parks is the only one of these alternatives that is a current ward name, I recommend that the proposed ward of Blackcave be renamed “Town Parks”.

*Recommendation: Rename the proposed Blackcave ward as “Town Parks” since the landmark of Blackcave is outside the proposed ward boundaries.*

**3.13** Larne BC suggested that the proposed Gardenmore ward no longer incorporates local areas associated with the Gardenmore name (Gardenmore Place etc) and should be renamed “Greenland”, as it takes in about a third of the Craigy Hill estate and areas known locally as Greenland.

*Recommendation: The proposed Gardenmore ward to be renamed “Greenland” in order to keep the ward name relevant to the locality.*

**3.14** Larne BC suggested that the boundary at the south west corner of the proposed Gardenmore ward be redrawn to include the area to the right of the Linn Road from Churchill Road to Greenway which is situated in the proposed Craigy Hill ward, as this takes “account of main arterial routes rather than subdividing particular streets and crescents”. This boundary revision would involve the transfer of 323 electors from the proposed Craigy Hill ward to the proposed Gardenmore ward and can be achieved within the 10% variance principle if taken into account with the other recommendations below. As it is within the 10% variance and follows a more “readily identifiable boundary” (i.e. an arterial route), I recommend that this revision be considered.

*Recommendation: Revise the south west corner boundary of the proposed Gardenmore ward to include the area to the right of the Linn Road from Churchill Road to Greenway which is situated in the proposed Craigy Hill ward.*

**3.15** Larne BC suggested that the boundary at the south east tip of the proposed Gardenmore ward be revised so that the Roddens/Edward Avenue area is transferred into the proposed Larne Centre ward. In combination with the other recommendations this transfer of 177 electors from the proposed Gardenmore ward to the proposed Larne Centre ward maintains the 10% variance guidance and I subsequently recommend this revision.

*Recommendation: Revise the boundary at the south east tip of the proposed Gardenmore ward so that the Roddens/Edward Avenue area is transferred into the proposed Larne Centre ward.*

**3.16** Larne BC suggested that the proposed Larne Centre ward did not represent Larne Town Centre “or any area that is identifiable as Larne Centre, and, in fact, this is the area that is known as Gardenmore”. In keeping with locally relevant ward names, I recommend that the proposed Larne Centre ward be renamed “Gardenmore”.

*Recommendation: Rename the proposed Larne Centre ward as “Gardenmore”.*

**3.17** Larne BC suggested that the south-east corner of the proposed Larne Centre ward be moved to follow an identifiable boundary, namely the Victoria Road. This would involve the transfer of 338 electors from the proposed

Larne Centre ward into the proposed Curran ward. As this follows an identifiable boundary and can be accomplished within the 10% electoral variance, I recommend this revision.

*Recommendation: Revise the boundary between the proposed Larne Centre ward and the proposed Curran ward to follow the Victoria Road.*

**3.18** Larne Borough Council suggested that the western boundary of the proposed Curran ward be moved down towards the Ballysnod area in order to maintain urban-rural proportionality and to maintain the 10% variance in light of the other revisions. This can be achieved with the transfer of 103 electors from Glynn ward and I recommend this boundary revision as well to maintain the urban-rural proportionality and the 10% electorate variance within all three of these proposed wards.

*Recommendation: Revise the southern boundary of the proposed Curran ward to reach the Ballysnod area.*

**3.19** Larne BC suggested that the Ballyhampton area at the north west of the proposed Curran ward should be included in the Kilwaughter ward, with the boundary redrawn at the Highways. This densely populated small area would involve the transfer of 139 electors from the proposed Curran ward to the proposed Kilwaughter ward and would address the urban-rural proportionality within Kilwaughter. In addition, it would ensure the wards involved remain within the 10% variance guideline.

*Recommendation: Revise the boundary at the north west of the proposed Curran ward so that the Ballyhampton area is included in the proposed Kilwaughter ward, with the boundary redrawn at the Highways to ensure urban-rural proportionality and the 10% variance principle.*

**3.20** Larne BC suggested that the name of the proposed Island Magee ward be renamed "Islandmagee" as it is known locally.

*Recommendation: Rename the proposed Island Magee ward as "Islandmagee".*

**3.21** All of these recommendations can be achieved within the 10% electorate variance principle. In combination, these revisions bring the affected wards' electoral totals to the following: Ballygally 2306; Craigy Hill 2024; Gardenmore 2304; Blackcave 2084; Larne Centre 2020; Curran 2458; Kilwaughter 2409; Glynn 2105.

## **Moyle**

**3.22** Two written representations were received concerning the location of Bushmills village and its retention within a single ward. Moyle District Council proposed that the western boundary of the proposed Causeway Coast ward should be adjusted to match the current ward boundary. However, this cannot be achieved within the 10% electoral variance.

**3.23** The Alliance Party highlighted issues relating to the proposed Dunluce, Causeway Coast and Moss-side wards and the division of Bushmills village between them. The majority of Bushmills village can be retained within a single ward if boundaries between the proposed wards are redrawn along the river and main road.

**3.24** This revision brings the majority of Bushmills village into the proposed Moss-side ward, so I recommend that the ward be renamed “Bushmills and Moss-side”.

*Recommendation: Revise the boundary between the proposed Dunluce, Causeway Coast and Moss-side wards to bring the majority of Bushmills village into the proposed Moss-side ward and rename this ward “Bushmills and Moss-side”.*

**3.25** The Alliance Party’s written submission also suggests considering a revision of the proposed Moss-side ward’s boundary on the outskirts of Ballycastle, although no specific revision is suggested. In order to maintain the 10% variance, as well as to incorporate the outlying area of Ballycastle into a single ward, I recommend revising the boundary between the south east corner of the proposed Causeway Coast ward and the eastern tip of the proposed Moss-side ward so that 265 electors are transferred into the proposed Causeway Coast ward.

*Recommendation: Revise the boundary between the south-east corner of the proposed Causeway Coast ward and the eastern tip of the proposed Moss-side ward.*

**3.26** One written and one oral representation were received concerning the proposed ward location of Portballintrae. The Alliance Party’s written submission stated that, “The split of the small community of Bushmills/Portballintrae between three wards is unnecessary and inappropriate.” No alternative boundaries were suggested in this submission.

**3.27** Ms Joyce Rankin (Portballintrae Residents Association) submitted an oral representation at the hearing expressing a desire to move all of Portballintrae from the proposed Dunluce ward into the proposed Causeway Coast and Glens ward. She stated that one reason for this was as follows: “We want to be included in an area that understands our problems and the area that we are in [the proposed Dunluce ward] is rural and inland when you look at the map. This is our historic problem, that we are not represented in a situation that can deal with our geographic issues.” However, the integrity of Portballintrae as a village is maintained within the proposed Dunluce ward and there does not seem to be any feasible way to move Portballintrae to the proposed Causeway and Coast ward with respect to the urban-rural proportionality rule and the 10% electoral variance guideline. Therefore, I recommend that the village of Portballintrae remain within the proposed Dunluce ward.

*Recommendation: The entirety of Portballintrae should remain within the proposed Dunluce ward in order to maintain urban-rural proportionality and the 10% electorate variance principle.*

### **Number of wards**

**3.28** No representations were received concerning any revision to the proposed number of wards (60) within the district.

*Recommendation: The number of wards within the district should remain at 60 in total, as in the Commissioner's Provisional Recommendations.*

## **4. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

**4.1** As no representations were received which proposed a name that was felt to fully incorporate all of the parts of this Local Government District, I recommend that the name proposed in the Commissioner's Provisional Recommendations be retained, North East Local Government District.

**4.2** While issues such as the maximisation of the tourism industry and the past experience of particular districts in managing specific geographic features can not be taken into account within the legislative remit of the Order, the preservation of a single natural feature within one district is a valid reason specified under the Order and for this reason, I recommend that the boundary between the North East and North West districts (Castlerock and Magilligan wards) be revised so that the entirety of Downhill Forest is within the North East district (Castlerock ward). The impact of this boundary revision also means that Downhill Estate and Mussenden Temple would remain in the North East district.

**4.3** I recommend that the proposed Braid ward be renamed "Braidwater", as its obvious reference to the river has more local relevance.

**4.4** I recommend that the proposed Carnlough ward be renamed either "Glenlough" or "Glenarm and Carnlough" in order to take into account both local communities within this proposed ward.

**4.5** I recommend that the south-west boundary of the proposed Carnlough ward is moved to bring the entirety of the rural hamlet of Carnalbanagh into the proposed Ballygally ward.

**4.6** I recommend that the proposed Ballygally ward be renamed "Cairncastle" after the townland, as it has more relevance to the area as a whole.

**4.7** I recommend that the boundary between the proposed Blackcave and Ballygally wards be revised at Seacourt Community Centre and playing fields so that these community facilities are in the same ward as their local community.

**4.8** I recommend that the proposed Blackcave ward be renamed "Town Parks" since the Blackcave landmark is outside the proposed ward boundaries.

**4.9** I recommend that the proposed Gardenmore ward be renamed "Greenland" in order to keep the ward name relevant to the locality.

**4.10** I recommend that the south west corner boundary of the proposed Gardenmore ward be revised to include the area to the right of the Linn Road from Churchill Road to Greenway, which is situated in the proposed Craig Hill ward.

- 4.11** I recommend that the boundary at the south-east tip of the proposed Gardenmore ward be revised so that the Roddens/Edward Avenue area is transferred into the proposed Larne Centre ward.
- 4.12** I recommend that the proposed Larne Centre ward be renamed “Gardenmore” in order to keep the ward name relevant to the locality.
- 4.13** I recommend that the boundary between the proposed Larne Centre ward and the proposed Curran ward be revised to follow an identifiable boundary, namely the Victoria Road.
- 4.14** I recommend that the southern boundary of the Curran ward be revised to reach the Ballysnod area in order to maintain the urban-rural proportionality and the 10% electorate variance of the proposed Curran and Glynn wards.
- 4.15** I recommend that the boundary at the north west of the proposed Curran ward be revised so that the Ballyhampton area is included in the Kilwaughter ward in order to maintain urban-rural proportionality and the 10% electorate variance of these two wards.
- 4.16** I recommend that the proposed Island Magee ward be renamed “Islandmagee”, as it is known locally.
- 4.17** I recommend that the boundary between the proposed Dunluce, Causeway Coast and Moss-side wards be revised in order to bring the majority of Bushmills village within a single ward (Moss-side) and that this boundary is redrawn along identifiable features, namely the river and main road.
- 4.18** I recommend that the proposed Moss-side ward be renamed “Bushmills and Moss-side” (if the above recommendation 4.17 is accepted) in order to instil greater local relevance in the name.
- 4.19** I recommend that the boundary between the proposed Moss-side ward and the south east corner of the proposed Causeway Coast ward be revised to include the outskirts of Ballycastle town within a single ward (Causeway Coast) and to maintain the 10% electorate variance guidance (if the above recommendation 4.17 is accepted).
- 4.20** Finally, I recommend that the number of wards within the North East district remain at 60.

## **5. CONCLUSION**

**5.1** In conclusion, I wish to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to all who submitted written representations and all who attended the public hearing and for the manner in which they presented their evidence and participated in the proceedings. I have taken all of these submissions and proposed alternatives into account insofar as is practicable within the rules and guidelines of the Order. Where it has not been possible within the rules and guidelines to fully recommend the adoption of specific alternative options put forth within these written and oral submissions, or where two or more proposed alternatives conflicted with each other, I have attempted to make recommendations within the remit of the rules and guidelines that are in keeping with the general tenor of the submissions. Furthermore, several proposals were made relating to planned housing developments and derelict properties and their impact on the electorate within wards. These issues cannot be taken into account in any of the cases referred to, as the Rules set out in Part III of Schedule I to the Local Government (Boundaries) (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 specify that recommendations shall be based on the Register of Electors in force on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2005.

**5.2** Finally, I would like to thank Mandy Morrison and her staff, as well as Morrow Communications and the audio engineers, for the administrative and technical support that they provided me in preparing for and conducting the public hearing. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to the Secretariat staff and the staff at the Ordnance Survey for all their help and assistance in preparing this report.

**Kat Healy**

**Assistant Local Government Boundaries Commissioner**  
**27<sup>th</sup> February 2007**

## **Appendix A    Written Submissions**

Written submissions relating to the North East Local Government District were received from the following:

Alliance Party  
Ballymena Borough Council  
Barr, S  
Bradley, M (Alpha Northern Newspaper Group)  
Coleraine Borough Council  
Derry City Council  
Houston, WT  
Larne Borough Council  
Moyle District Council  
Murphy, PG  
O'Loan, D  
Stevenson, I

## **Appendix B Oral Submissions**

At the public hearing on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2007, at the Coleraine Campus of the University of Ulster, oral representations were received from the following:

Binnie, I (Causeway Coast Community Consortium)  
Fulton, W (Larne Borough Council)  
Lewis, R (Moyle District Council)  
Mann, M (Coleraine Borough Council)  
McGahey, G (Larne Borough Council)  
Mills, M (Ballymena Borough Council)  
Moore, W (Coleraine Borough Council)  
Rankin, J (Portballintrae Residents Association)  
Stevenson, I  
Surgenor, T (National Trust North Coast Members Association)  
Watterson, M (Ballymena Borough Council)  
Wreath, D (Coleraine Borough Council)