



**Local Government Boundaries Commissioner
for Northern Ireland**

PRESS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARIES COMMISSIONER

27 FEBRUARY 2009

**REVISED RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEW COUNCIL BOUNDARIES
UNVEILED**

Revised Recommendations for the eleven new local government districts in Northern Ireland and their constituent wards were announced today by the Local Government Boundaries Commissioner, Dick Mackenzie CB. They vary Provisional Recommendations already published by the Commissioner last September.

The Revised Recommendations take account of written representations received during the public consultation period which ended on 12 November 2008. The recommendations also reflect conclusions and recommendations contained in the reports of the eleven Assistant Commissioners who held public hearings in each of the proposed new local government districts during November 2008. These reports are published on the Commissioner's website today.

Speaking earlier, Mr Mackenzie said:

"I am grateful to all those who submitted written and oral representations. The Revised Recommendations Report proposes changes to my initial recommendations and seeks comments on those revisions.

I propose a change to the names of six councils from those recommended in my Provisional Report, namely,

- Derry City and Strabane District Council should be called “Derry City and Strabane Regional Council”;
- Armagh City and Bann District should be called “Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon District Council”;
- Newry City and Down District Council should be called “Newry City, Mourne and Down District Council”;
- Ards and North Down District Council should be called “North Down and Ards District Council”;
- Causeway Coast District Council should be called “Causeway Coast and Glens District Council”;
- Mid Antrim District Council should be called “Mid and East Antrim District council.

For the most part the boundaries of the new districts are as set out in my Provisional Recommendations. The main change is between the Mid Ulster and the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon districts where the new boundary follows the line of the River Blackwater, this being a more readily identifiable boundary. The other change is between the Mid and East Antrim and the Antrim and Newtownabbey districts where the whole of the campus of Belfast High School, together with some nearby residential development, is brought within the latter district. Two other small changes are proposed, namely, that two townlands near Rathfriland should not transfer to the Newry City, Mourne and Down district and that the Belfast boundary at Tullycarnet should be adjusted to reflect new development on the ground.

Having regard to the desirability that there should be a proper representation of the rural and urban electorate within a district, I am proposing to increase the number of wards in two districts to 41. The two districts are Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon, and Newry City, Mourne and Down. Apart from that, I am confirming my Provisional Recommendations that Belfast should have 60 wards and the remaining councils should have 40 wards.

I am proposing a significant number of ward boundary changes as the result of representations received and the recommendations of the Assistant Commissioners and these are set out in my Revised Recommendations Report.”

Copies of the Revised Recommendations Report are available at a number of display venues throughout Northern Ireland including council offices, public libraries, Area Electoral offices and offices of the Electoral Commission. The Report is also available at www.lgbc-ni.org.

Today begins the period for submission of written representations with respect to the Revised Recommendations. These should be sent by 9 April 2009 to the Secretary to the Local Government Boundaries Commissioner, Forestview, Purdy’s Lane, Newtownbreda, Belfast, BT8 7AR; by e-mail to webmail@lgbc-ni.org; or by fax at 028 9049 4889 or by Typetalk at 18001 (028) 9049 4870.

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For media enquiries directed to Dick Mackenzie, contact Kieran Donnelly/Gareth Colhoun at Morrow Communications, 028 9039 3837.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

1. The Local Government (Boundaries) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 provides for the establishment of 11 local government districts in Northern Ireland, for the division of those districts into wards, and for the appointment of a Local Government Boundaries Commissioner to recommend the names of those districts and wards and the number of wards in each district. At present there are 26 local government districts in Northern Ireland and the Act provides that the 11 new districts shall incorporate, respectively, the whole or the major part of the following existing districts :-

1. Antrim; Newtownabbey.
2. Ards; North Down.
3. Armagh City and District; Banbridge; Craigavon.
4. Ballymena; Carrickfergus; Larne.
5. Ballymoney; Coleraine; Limavady; Moyle.
6. Belfast.
7. Castlereagh; Lisburn City.
8. Cookstown; Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough; Magherafelt.
9. Derry; Strabane.
- 10 Down; Newry and Mourne
11. Fermanagh; Omagh.

2. The Minister of the Environment, Sammy Wilson MP MLA appointed Dick Mackenzie CB as the Local Government Boundaries Commissioner with effect from 1 July 2008 with the remit of making recommendations by 30th June 2009 to the Department of the Environment.

3. The Commissioner published his Provisional Recommendations on 17 September 2008 and this also began an eight-week period for submission of written representations followed by a programme of eleven public hearings, one in each of the new local government districts. The Commissioner considered all representations and the reports of the Assistant Commissioners and has decided to modify his Provisional Recommendations. The changes are published today in his Revised Recommendations Report.

4. Views are now sought on the Revised Recommendations. The closing date for receipt of written submissions is 9 April 2009.

5. Written representations can be submitted to the Secretary, Local Government Boundaries Commissioner, Forestview, Purdy's Lane, Belfast BT8 7AR, by email to webmail@lgbc-ni.org , by fax at 028 9049 4889 or by Typetalk at 18001 (028) 9049 4870.

6. Copies of the Revised Recommendations Report are available at a number of display venues throughout Northern Ireland including council offices, public libraries, Area Electoral offices and offices of the Electoral Commission. The Report is also available at www.lgbc-ni.org .