

What new responsibilities will my council have?

A number of functions which are currently delivered by NI Executive departments will be carried out by councils.



Councils will also be required to lead a **community planning** process. This will be done in partnership with other public service providers in order to collectively address local problems.

More detail on councils' additional functions is available at www.nidirect.gov.uk/newcouncils

Will I see a change to my rates?

When setting the 2015/16 rates, we will move from having 26 different district rates to 11. As a result, everyone's rate liability will change. However, the NI Executive has committed up to £30million for a transitional rates relief scheme. This will help ratepayers who would otherwise face excessive increases as a result of the creation of the new, larger councils.

More information will be made available by DOE and councils ahead of 1 April 2015. Reducing the number of councils and new ways of working will enable councils to make savings, benefitting the ratepayer.

Why are local councils changing?

To create stronger, more effective local councils for you.

Councils' new responsibilities and powers, combined with their existing functions, will give them some powerful tools to shape your area and community.

Reform will help councils

Be more creative in delivering services.

Be more flexible and responsive to local needs.

Bring power closer to you.

Make cost savings, benefitting the ratepayer.

Find out more

Web: www.nidirect.gov.uk/newcouncils

Phone: 028 90 823 333

Email: lgpdreform@doeni.gov.uk

Local council elections 22 MAY 2014

Elections to the new local councils are taking place on the same day as the European Parliamentary election on 22 May. To find out more about registering to vote, how to take part in these elections and to check if your polling station has changed, visit www.eoni.org.uk or call 0800 4320 712

This document may be made available in alternative formats and other languages upon request. Please contact us to discuss your requirements;

Department of the Environment,
Local Government Policy Division,
Causeway Exchange, 1-7 Bedford
Street, Belfast, BT2 7EG
or call 02890 823333.

**PLACE
FSC
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LOCAL COUNCILS ARE CHANGING

This will improve services for you
and your community



These will be strong, dynamic councils that create vibrant, healthy, prosperous, safe and sustainable communities with the needs of all citizens at their core.

When is it happening?

From 1 April 2015 the 26 councils will be replaced by 11 new councils



To prepare, the new councils will be elected on

22 MAY 2014



They will operate in shadow form until

1 APRIL 2015

22 May 2014

May 2014 to March 2015

1 April 2015

LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Held to elect new councils.

SHADOW PERIOD

New councils make preparations to take over on **1 April 2015**. Business as usual for the current councils.

NEW COUNCILS TAKE OVER

11 new councils replace the current 26 councils.

SHADOW PERIOD

During the shadow period, the 11 new councils will exist alongside the current 26 councils. The current councils will continue to operate as normal, delivering all of their usual services and looking after all council matters.

The new councils will use this time to make necessary preparations to allow them to begin operating on 1 April 2015.

Preparations include —



Approving business and financial plans for the new councils



Setting rates for 2015/16



Appointing senior staff to the new councils



Leading cooperation between the merging councils

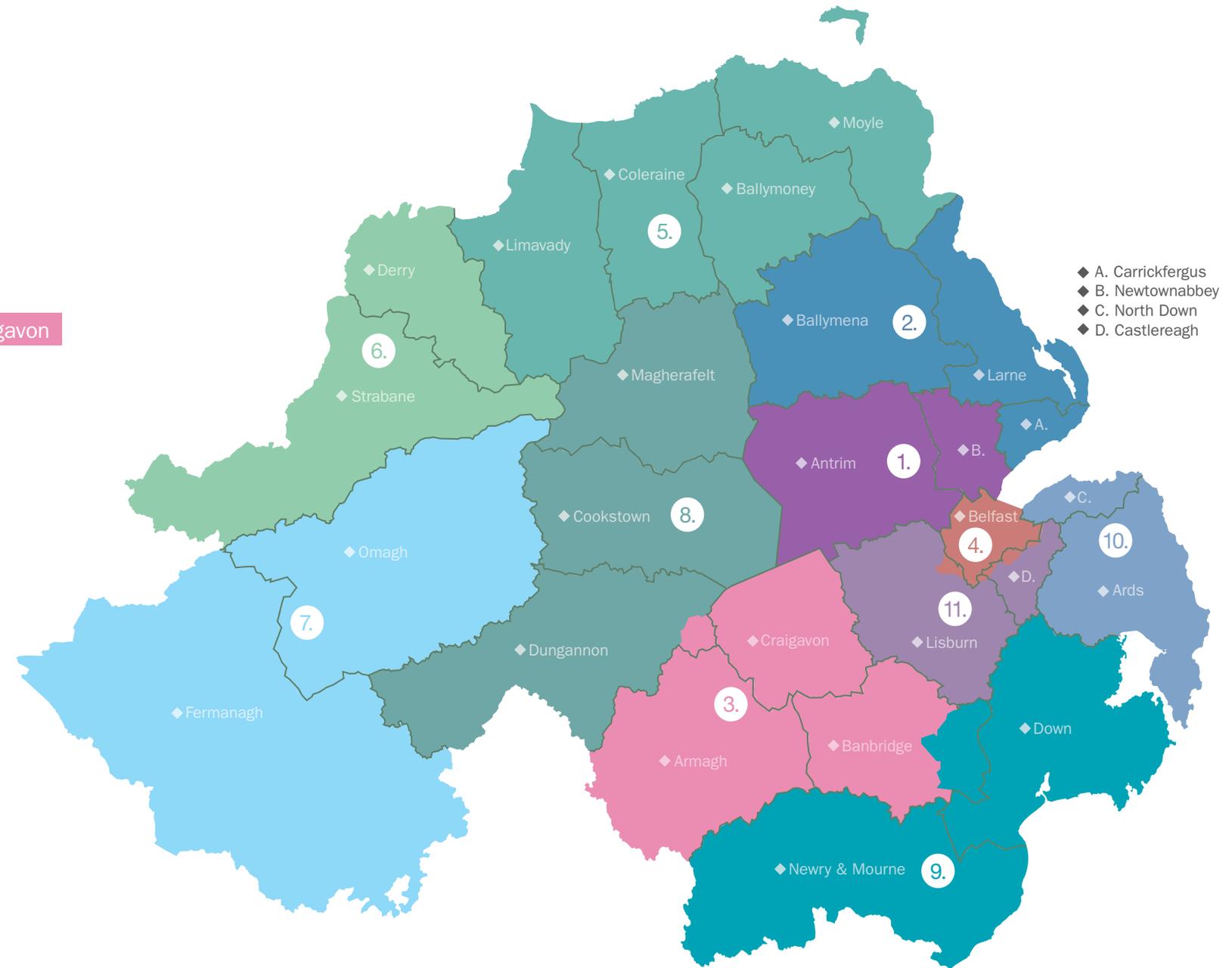
This map shows the current and new council areas.

— 26 current local council areas

11 new council areas

1. Antrim and Newtownabbey
2. Mid and East Antrim
3. Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon
4. Belfast
5. Causeway Coast and Glens
6. Derry and Strabane
7. Fermanagh and Omagh
8. Mid Ulster
9. Newry, Mourne and Down
10. North Down and Ards
11. Lisburn and Castlereagh

For illustration purposes only



To find out exactly which new council area you live or work in, visit www.nidirect.gov.uk/newcouncils and enter your address.