

Article 2 - Members of the Council

2.1 Composition and eligibility

The Council comprises 40 members, called councillors. Councillors are elected by the voters of each district electoral area in accordance with a scheme drawn up by the Electoral Office of Northern Ireland. Where an individual ceases to be a councillor, whether by resignation or through other circumstances, the vacancy on the Council will be filled by the co-option of an individual nominated by the political party in whose name the previous individual stood, at the last local general election.

Only registered voters of the district or those living or working there will be eligible to stand for election and hold the office of councillor.

A total of 40 councillors were elected in May 2014 to the seven District Electoral Areas (DEAs) which make up the Ards and North Down Borough Council. They are:

Ards Peninsula (6 councillors)

Robert Adair, DUP

Kellie Armstrong, Alliance Party

Joe Boyle, SDLP

Angus Carson, UUP

Nigel Edmund, DUP

Eddie Thompson, DUP

Bangor Central (6 councillors)

Stuart Anderson, Alliance Party

Alistair Cathcart, DUP

Ian Henry, UUP

Wesley Irvine, DUP

Carl McClean, UUP

Noelle Robinson, Independent

Bangor East and Donaghadee (6 councillors)

Mark Brooks, UUP

Alan Chambers, Independent

Bill Keery, DUP

Peter Martin, DUP

Tom Smith, DUP

Gavin Walker, Alliance Party

Bangor West (5 councillors)

Alan Graham, DUP

Alan Leslie, DUP

Paul Roberts, Green Party

Marion Smith, UUP

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Scott Wilson, Alliance Party

Comber (5 councillors)

Stephen Cooper, TUV
Trevor Cummings, DUP
James Fletcher, UUP
Robert Gibson, DUP
Deborah Girvan, Alliance Party

Hollywood and Clandeboye (5 councillors)

Daniel Allen, UUP
John Barry, Green Party
Stephen Dunne, DUP
Jennifer Gilmour, DUP
Andrew Muir, Alliance Party

Newtownards (7 councillors)

Naomi Armstrong-Cotter, DUP
Catherine Ferguson, UUP
Colin Kennedy, DUP
Alan McDowell, Alliance Party
Stephen McIlveen, DUP
James Menagh, Independent
Richard Smart, UUP

2.2 Election and terms of Councillors and Aldermen

The regular election of councillors and aldermen will be held on the first Thursday in May every four years. The next local government election is scheduled to be held in 2019. The term of office of councillors and aldermen will start on the fourth day after being elected and will finish on the fourth day after the date of the next regular election.

2.3 Roles and duties of all Councillors

Key roles

- (a) All councillors will have the following key roles:
- (i) Councillors will collectively make policy and decisions including striking the district rate and be the ultimate policy-makers and carry out a number of strategic and corporate management functions.
 - (ii) Councillors will represent their communities and bring their views into the Council's decision-making process.
 - (iii) Councillors will deal with individual issues and act as an advocate for constituents in resolving particular concerns or grievances.
 - (iv) Councillors will balance different interests identified within the district

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- electoral area and represent that area as a whole.
- (v) Councillors will be available to represent the Council on other bodies.
- (vi) Councillors will maintain the highest standards of conduct and ethics.

Rights and duties

- (b) All Councillors will have the following rights and duties.
 - (i) Councillors will have such rights of access to such documents, information, land and buildings of the Council as are necessary for the proper discharge of their functions and in accordance with the law.
 - (ii) Councillors will not make public, information which is confidential or exempt (as defined in the Access to Information Rules in Part 3 of this Constitution), without the consent of the Council or divulge information given in confidence to anyone other than a Councillor or officer entitled to know it.

2.4 **Conduct**

Councillors' will at all times adopt high standards of conduct in order to give expression to the Northern Ireland Local Government Code of Conduct for Councillors, issued under section 53 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

2.5 **Allowances**

Councillors will be entitled to receive allowances in accordance with the Members Allowances Scheme set out in Part 5 of this Constitution.