

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 2023 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

Lorna McAlpine, Alliance

Joe Boyle, SDLP

Nigel Edmund, DUP

David Kerr, DUP

Pete Wray, UUP

Bangor Central (6 councillors)

Wesley Irvine, Independent

Alistair Cathcart, DUP

Craig Blaney, UUP

Chris McCracken, Alliance

Ray McKimm, Independent

Alex Harbinson, Alliance

Bangor East and Donaghadee (6 councillors)

Mark Brooks, UUP

Hannah Irwin, Alliance

James Cochrane, DUP

David Chambers, UUP

Gillian McCollum, Alliance

Eddie Thompson, DUP

Bangor West (5 councillors)

Christine Creighton, Alliance

Jennifer Gilmour, DUP

Stephen Hollywood, UUP

Article 2 - Members of the Council

Peter Martin, DUP
Barry McKee, Green Party

Comber (5 councillors)

Libby Douglas, DUP
Philip Smith, UUP
Trevor Cummings, DUP
Patrica Morgan, Alliance
Rachel Ashe, Alliance

Hollywood and Clandeboye (5 councillors)

Alan Graham, DUP
Linzi McLaren, UUP
Martin McRandal, Alliance
David Rossiter, Alliance
Lauren Kendall, Green Party

Newtownards (7 councillors)

Steven Irvine, Independent
Naomi Armstrong-Cotter, DUP
Richard Smart, UUP
Alan McDowell, Alliance Party
Stephen McIlveen, DUP
Vicky Moore, Alliance
Colin Kennedy, DUP

2.2 Election and terms of Councillors and Aldermen

The regular election of councillors and aldermen will be held in May every four years. The next local government election is scheduled to be held in 2027. 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.

Article 2 - Members of the Council

- (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 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.