

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM



KEEPING YOU INFORMED

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Minister Wilson announces key Council reform milestone

"It is my intention to ensure we put in place the 11 new councils in May 2011 and that they will come into full operation four days after the local elections.

"This will ensure that the new councils will be in a position to immediately begin working for their local communities, and exercise their duties and responsibilities for the benefit of their citizens."

In March 2008, the then Environment Minister Arlene Foster announced the future shape of local government and the additional functions and duties which the new councils would have.

Since that announcement a significant amount of work has been carried out in the partnership between local and central government to agree the structures and processes which will be needed to make change happen.

Preparation for the new authorities will be taken forward based on agreed implementation structures and will be led at local level by [Transition Committees](#).

Among the responsibilities of the committees will be the integration of existing functions and duties into the new councils.

The Minister added: *"The transition committees will be responsible for a very significant programme of work to ensure the new councils will be in a position to take full executive responsibility for services from the outset.*

"This in turn means the transition committees will need to be given statutory powers, subject to the direction of my Department, and I will bring detailed legislative proposals before the Executive and Assembly in due course."

Transition Committees

There will be eleven Transition Committees, one for each of the proposed new Council Authorities. The membership of each will be made up of elected members from the constituent councils which will form the new authorities. The primary role of the Transition Committee is to take the key decisions necessary to ensure that there are eleven effective Councils in place on the changeover date in 2011.



Boundary Commission proposals for new council areas

Issues for Local Council Reform -

- ✚ Elections to the 11 new local authorities will take place in May 2011, to coincide with the next Assembly elections.
- ✚ The introduction of a community planning process and a new power of well-being.
- ✚ The transfer of a range of functions including aspects of planning, rural development, the public realm aspects of local roads functions, urban regeneration, housing related functions and local economic development and tourism.
- ✚ The smooth transfer of some 1100 staff and £116m of expenditure from central to local government.
- ✚ New governance arrangements with appropriate checks and balances
- ✚ A severance package for long serving councillors



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