



Department of the
Environment

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Draft Local Government (Transitional, Incidental, Consequential and Supplemental Provisions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

Charters and Status

Consultation Document

20 October 2014



Department of the
Environment
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**DRAFT LOCAL GOVERNMENT (TRANSITIONAL, INCIDENTAL,
CONSEQUENTIAL AND SUPPLEMENTAL PROVISIONS)
REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2014**

CHARTERS AND STATUS

This Consultation Document seeks views on the Department's proposals for the district, borough and city status of the eleven new councils, and the draft Local Government (Transitional, Incidental, Consequential and Supplemental Provisions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Comments should be sent by 12 December 2014 to:

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The following people will be able to answer queries in relation to the draft regulations:

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**DRAFT LOCAL GOVERNMENT (TRANSITIONAL, INCIDENTAL,
CONSEQUENTIAL AND SUPPLEMENTAL PROVISIONS)
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PURPOSE OF THE CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

1. The Department of the Environment is seeking views from consultees on its proposals in relation to the district, borough and city status of the eleven new councils, and the draft Local Government (Transitional, Incidental, Consequential and Supplemental Provisions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 (“the Regulations”).

BACKGROUND

2. The 11 new councils were established following the election in May 2014. The new councils will operate alongside the 26 existing councils until 31 March 2015, when the current councils will cease to exist and the 11 new councils will assume full responsibility for local government functions.
3. All councils are initially established, by way of legislation, as district councils. As such, currently the 11 new councils are district councils, established under section 1 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 (“the 1972 Act”), as amended by section 3(1) of the Local Government (Boundaries) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

4. Councils are able to style themselves as district, borough or city councils, subject to the fulfilment of certain conditions. Of the 26 existing councils, three are city councils, 14 are borough councils and 9 are district councils.

Boroughs

5. A council can become a borough council by petitioning the Secretary of State for the grant of a borough charter which designates the district of the council as a borough. This is provided for by section 2 of the 1972 Act. A council's decision to petition for a borough charter must be made by special resolution, as defined by section 148 of the 1972 Act. A special resolution of a council is subject to certain requirements, including the specification that it may only be passed by a two-thirds majority of the whole number of councillors present at a public meeting which has been advertised in at least two newspapers. The grant of a charter entitles a council to appoint a mayor, designate aldermen and award freedom of the borough.

Cities

6. City status is awarded by the monarch. The holding of city status gives a settlement no special rights other than that of calling itself a city. Nonetheless, this appellation carries its own prestige and, consequently, competitions for the status are hard fought. There is no legislative provision which permits a council or town to petition for city status. Recently, new cities have been awarded their status as a result of a competition held to commemorate an anniversary or occasion, e.g. the Diamond Jubilee in 2012. Northern Ireland currently has 5 recognised cities – Armagh; Belfast; Derry/Londonderry; Lisburn and Newry.

7. City status is usually awarded through the grant of Letters Patent, which are a type of legal instrument in the form of a published written order issued by a monarch. This differs from a charter, which is a formal document issued by a monarch granting a right or power to an individual or body corporate. Charters have perpetual effect.
8. In Ireland, however, city status tended historically to be granted by Royal Charter, and this is the case in relation to the cities of Belfast and Derry/Londonderry. Recent grants have used a looser wording, where the city status is awarded to the "town". This arrangement applies in relation to the cities of Armagh and Newry. In the case of Lisburn, city status was awarded to the "borough of Lisburn" (the district of Lisburn was granted a borough charter in 1964). This means that there will be some differences between how city council status may be dealt with as a result of local government reform and the creation of the 11 new local government districts.

Status and Local Government Reorganisation

9. On 31 March 2015, the 26 current councils and their local government districts will cease to exist. As such, it will be necessary for the 11 new councils to make decisions in relation to existing charters and any associated borough or city status. The proposed Regulations will provide a new council with the following options in relation to borough status:
 - remain a district council (i.e. take no action);
 - preserve an existing borough charter within its district (requiring a standard resolution of the council, though this decision would be able to be reconsidered ('called in') under

the provisions at section 41 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014); or

- petition the Secretary of State for the grant of a new borough charter (requiring a special resolution of the council under the provisions at section 2 of the 1972 Act).

10. In order to facilitate councils' decisions in this regard, the Department proposes to introduce Regulations to allow a new council to opt to continue an existing charter or elements of charters, in cases where there are one or more existing boroughs within the new local government district. The Regulations will also provide for the preservation of city status, in cases where it is linked to a charter.
11. The Department proposes that the Regulations will provide for the roll of honorary freemen of any outgoing charters to form part of a new or continuing charter. In cases where a charter is continued, the name attached to the continuing charter would be substituted for the name of the district of the new council.
12. City status is also closely linked to charters and the Department intends that the Regulations will provide for the continuation of charters to which city status is linked.
13. The Department proposes to replace the Local Government (Modification of Borough Charters) Order (Northern Ireland) 1973 in relation to granting freedom of a borough and the designation of aldermen.

Council Names

14. It should be noted that the issue of council names, whilst undoubtedly linked to charters and status, is not dealt with in the proposed Regulations. Legislative provision to allow the new councils to make decisions on their names is already in place.
15. Part 1 of the 1972 Act states that the name of a council must be the name of the local government district followed by the words “district council”. It further provides that, in cases where a council is a borough council, the word “district” in its name shall be substituted for “borough” (meaning that the name of the council would be the name of the local government district followed by the words “borough council”). If a borough is a city, then the final two words of the council’s name would become “city council”.
16. Section 51 of the 1972 Act permits the Department to make an order altering the name of a local government district, if it receives an application from a council requesting that it do so. If a council were to use this option to alter its name, the final two words of the name would have to be “district council”, “borough council” or “city council” depending on the council’s status.
17. In order to afford new councils a greater degree of flexibility in naming themselves, a further provision has been included at section 1(2) of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014. This allows the Department to make Regulations to provide that a council’s name may be other than the name of the local government district followed by the words “district council” (or “borough/city

council”). The Department would only make such Regulations upon the request of a council.

DETAILS OF THE PROPOSALS

Boroughs

18. As stated above, councils may, under section 2 of the 1972 Act, petition the Secretary of State praying for the grant of a charter designating a district a borough.

19. Regulation 2 of the proposed Regulations refers to cases in which a new borough charter is granted to a new council under section 2 of the 1972 Act before 1 April 2016. If a new charter is awarded and the whole or major part of any other borough has existed in the district before that date, regulation 2 will provide for the roll of honorary freemen of any outgoing charters to become part of the roll of honorary freemen attached to the new borough charter. It should be noted that a new council may petition for a new charter at any time, whether before or after 1 April 2016. However, under the provisions of the Regulations, if a new charter is granted after 1 April 2016, the roll of honorary freemen of outgoing charters could not form part of the new charter and, as such, any freedom of the borough awarded by a council prior to that date would no longer exist.

20. This proposal is intended to allow new councils to petition for the grant of a new borough charter, whilst ensuring that persons admitted to the freedom of the borough under outgoing charters may remain on the roll of honorary freemen of a new charter. This

means that the roll of honorary freemen of existing council charters will be preserved after local government reorganisation has taken full effect.

21. It should be noted that the process of petitioning for the grant of a new borough charter can take up to 12 months from the date of the special meeting until the award of the charter. As such, it is unlikely that a new council would receive borough status prior to the conclusion of the shadow period on 31 March 2015. Councils choosing to petition for the grant of a new charter would, therefore, remain district councils until the date upon which their new charter is awarded.

Charters

22. The Regulations propose to continue the three charters to which city status is linked, without the new councils in possession of those charters having to take any action. Regulation 3(1) makes provision for the preservation of these charters. This course of action is proposed in relation to the existing charters of Belfast, Derry/Londonderry and Lisburn. This would follow the approach taken in the last round of local government reorganisation in the early 1970's, when the charters of Belfast and Derry/Londonderry, Northern Ireland's only two cities at that time, were automatically continued in legislation. As the city status of Newry and Armagh is not linked to a charter, the Regulations do not need to make provision in relation to them.
23. Regulation 3(2) will apply to all new councils which have an existing borough charter within their district, except for the three in respect of

which an existing charter which is linked to city status has been continued under regulation 3(1). The remaining councils with one or more existing charters within their district will, before 1 April 2016, be able to resolve to continue an existing charter. If such a resolution is made, the Regulations state that the name on the borough charter shall be substituted for the name of the new local government district (although regulation 3(4) allows a council to make a further resolution to change the name which would appear on the charter). It should be noted that a resolution made under regulation 3(2) would be subject to a simple majority vote, unless the decision was subject to reconsideration (“call-in”) under section 41 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014.

24. Regulation 3(3) will provide for a charter which has been continued under regulation 3(1) or (2) to have effect in relation to the new district which includes the whole or major part of the new local government district to which it will apply. This effectively extends a continued charter so that it will cover the whole of the new district.
25. If a council makes a decision to continue an existing charter in respect of the new district, the Regulations will require it to publish a notice in the Belfast Gazette.
26. In terms of timescales, the process for continuing an existing charter in respect of a new local government district could be achieved in time for 1 April 2015, as it requires only a resolution of the council and the publication of a notice in the Belfast Gazette. This means that a council choosing to continue an existing charter would be able

to become a borough council as soon as the shadow period has ended.

27. The Regulations provide that, on 1 April 2016, all existing charters that have not been continued will be annulled.

Question One

Do you agree that new councils should be able to choose to continue an existing borough charter in respect of a new local government district (N.B. section 2 of the 1972 Act, which is already in place and is not part of the Regulations, allows any new council to petition the Secretary of State for the grant of a new borough charter)?

Question Two

Do you agree that the roll of honorary freemen attached to outgoing charters should be able to be preserved within a new or continuing charter?

Question Three

Do you agree that 1 April 2016 is an appropriate deadline by which a council should ensure that a new or existing charter is in place, if it wishes to preserve the roll of honorary freemen attached to outgoing charters? If not, what do you think would be an appropriate deadline?

Question Four

Do you agree that the Regulations should make provision for existing charters which are linked to city status to be continued without the new council having to take any action?

Question Five

Do you agree that all existing charters which are not subject to continuation under the provisions of the Regulations should be annulled on 1 April 2016? If not, what do you think would be an appropriate deadline?

Designation of aldermen

28. It is proposed that regulation 4 will set out the rules for the designation of aldermen. These provisions are a direct replacement of those currently contained within the Local Government (Modification of Borough Charters) Order (Northern Ireland) 1973, the revocation of which will be provided for at regulation 6 of the Regulations. It is necessary to revoke the Order in order to modernise the legislative framework and avoid confusion between its content and that of the proposed Regulations.
29. There are no proposed alterations to current provisions in relation to the designation of aldermen, apart from the removal of the requirement to elect aldermen immediately after the appointment of the mayor and deputy mayor. This provision has been omitted to take account of the method new councils must use to make

appointments to positions of responsibility, as set out in the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Freedom of the borough

30. It is proposed that regulation 5 will provide for the admittance of persons to the freedom of the borough. Again, this is a direct replacement of the provisions of the Local Government (Modification of Borough Charters) Order (Northern Ireland) 1973 and there are no proposed changes to the current process in relation to admittance to freedom of the borough.

Question Six

Do you have any comments in relation to the proposed replacement of provisions in relation to the designation of aldermen and admittance to the freedom of the borough?

Human Rights

31. The Department believes that the proposals are compatible with the Human Rights Act 1998.

Equality

32. Under the terms of section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, the Department carried out screening for equality impact and is satisfied that the proposed legislation will not lead to discriminatory or negative differential impact on any of the section 75 groups. A copy of the screening form can be viewed on the Department's website:

http://www.doeni.gov.uk/index/information/equality_unit/policies_screened_out_-_january_to_march_2014.htm

Regulatory Impact Assessment

33. The Department has not conducted a regulatory impact assessment as the proposed legislation does not give rise to any associated costs or savings on business, charities, social economy enterprises or the voluntary sector.

Rural Proofing

34. The Department has assessed the proposed measures and considers that there would be no differential impact in rural areas or on rural communities.

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – confidentiality of consultations

35. The Department may publish a summary of responses following completion of the consultation process. Your response, and all other responses to the consultation, may be disclosed on request. The Department can only refuse to disclose information in exceptional circumstances. Before you submit your response, please read Annex A on the confidentiality of consultations. It gives guidance on the legal position about any information given by you in response to this consultation.

Alternative format

36. This document is available in alternative formats. Please contact us to discuss your requirements.

Consultation

37. Comments should be sent by 12 December 2014 to the address below or by e-mail to: LGPDConsultations@doeni.gov.uk.

38. If you have any queries in relation to the proposals, you should contact:

Andy Pearson

andy.pearson@doeni.gov.uk

Tel: 028 9082 3356

39. This consultation document is being circulated to persons and bodies listed in Annex B and is also available to view at:

http://www.doeni.gov.uk/index/local_government/local_government_consultations.htm

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 – confidentiality of consultations

1. The Department may publish a summary of responses following completion of the consultation process. Your response, and all other responses to the consultation, may be disclosed on request. The Department can only refuse to disclose information in exceptional circumstances. Before you submit your response, please read the paragraphs below on the confidentiality of consultations and they will give you guidance on the legal position about any information given by you in response to this consultation.

2. The Freedom of Information Act gives the public a right of access to any information held by a public authority, namely, the Department in this case. This right of access to information includes information provided in response to a consultation. The Department cannot automatically consider as confidential information supplied to it in response to a consultation. However, it does have the responsibility to decide whether any information provided by you in response to this consultation, including information about your identity, should be made public or be treated as confidential.

3. This means that information provided by you in response to the consultation is unlikely to be treated as confidential, except in very particular circumstances. The Lord Chancellor's Code of Practice on the Freedom of Information Act provides that:

- the Department should only accept information from third parties in confidence if it is necessary to obtain that information in connection with the exercise of any of the Department's functions and it would not otherwise be provided;
- the Department should not agree to hold information received from third parties "in confidence" which is not confidential in nature; and
- acceptance by the Department of confidentiality provisions must be for good reasons, capable of being justified to the Information Commissioner.

4. For further information about confidentiality of responses please contact the Information Commissioner's Office (or see website at: <http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk>).

List of Consultees

Councils for the 11 new local government districts:

Antrim & Newtownabbey

Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon

Belfast

Causeway Coast & Glens

Derry & Strabane

Fermanagh & Omagh

Lisburn & Castlereagh

Mid & East Antrim

Mid Ulster

Newry, Mourne & Down

North Down & Ards

Local Government Auditor

Local Government Staff Commission

National Association of Councillors (NAC)

Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA)

Northern Ireland Local Government Superannuation Committee (NILGOSC)

Society for Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE)

2014 No.0000

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Local Government (Transitional, Incidental, Consequential and Supplemental Provisions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

Made - - - - - ***

Coming into operation - - - - - ***

The Department of the Environment makes the following Regulations, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 124 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014⁽¹⁾.

Citation, commencement and interpretation

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Local Government (Transitional, Incidental, Consequential and Supplemental Provisions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014, and shall come into operation on [insert date].

(2) In these Regulations—

“1972 Act” means the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972;

“2014 Act” means the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014;

“district” means a local government district established in pursuance of section 1 of the Local Government (Boundaries) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008⁽²⁾;

“new council” means a district council constituted under section 1 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 as amended by section 3(1) of the Local Government (Boundaries) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008;

“local government legislation” means—

(a) the 1972 Act;

(b) the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 2002⁽³⁾;

(c) Part 2 of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005⁽⁴⁾;

(d) Chapter 2 of Part 2 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (Northern Ireland) 2010⁽⁵⁾;

(e) the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011⁽⁶⁾;

(f) the 2014 Act; and

⁽¹⁾ 2014 c. 8 (N.I.).

⁽²⁾ 2008 c. 7 (N.I.).

⁽³⁾ S.I. 2002/3149.

⁽⁴⁾ S.I. 2005/1968.

⁽⁵⁾ 2010 c. 7 (N.I.) as amended by 2011 c. 10 (N.I.).

⁽⁶⁾ 2011 c. 10 (N.I.).

(g) any regulations or orders made under any of the immediately preceding statutory provisions.

“operative date” is 1st April 2016;

“casual vacancy” has the meaning given by section 11 of the Electoral Law Act (Northern Ireland) 1962⁽⁷⁾.

Boroughs

2. Where, before the operative date, a new council is granted a charter designating its district a borough under section 2 of the 1972 Act and the whole or major part of any other borough has existed in the district before that date, the roll of honorary freemen of that other borough shall become and form part of the roll of honorary freemen of the borough designated by the charter.

Charters

3.—(1) On the operative date the charter of the corporation of every borough in existence before 1st April 2015, other than a county borough, the borough of Lisburn or a borough to which paragraph (3)(c) applies, shall be annulled.

(2) The new council for a district which includes the whole or the major part of a borough other than a county borough or the borough of Lisburn may, before the operative date, resolve that the charter of the corporation of the borough shall have effect in relation to the district; and, if the borough bears a name other than the name of the district, the resolution shall provide for the name of the corporation of the borough to be changed to correspond to the name of the district.

(3) After 31st March 2016 the charter of—

(a) the corporation of each county borough;

(b) the corporation of the borough of Lisburn; and

(c) a borough in respect of the charter of which a resolution has been passed under paragraph (2);

shall, subject to these Regulations, have effect in relation to the district which includes the whole or major part of the borough as existing immediately before that date.

(4) The corporation established or regulated by a charter to which paragraph (3) applies shall continue to bear the name it bore immediately before the operative date or, where a resolution passed under this paragraph provides for a change of its name, shall on and after that date bear the name specified in the resolution.

(5) The chairman of the council mentioned in paragraph (4), and the councillors of that council who are designated as aldermen in accordance with the charter, shall be respectively the mayor (or, as the case may be, the lord mayor) and the aldermen of the borough to which the charter relates.

(6) Where a freemen’s roll is in existence immediately prior to the operative date in a county borough or other borough to which these Regulations apply, that freemen’s roll shall, on the operative date, become and form part of the roll of honorary freemen of the borough designated by a charter to which paragraph (3) applies.

(7) Without prejudice to any provision of the charter for the conferment of the freedom of the borough, the local electors of a district in relation to which a charter to which paragraph (3) applies shall, for the purposes of the charter, be the burgesses (or, as the case may be, the citizens) of the borough.

(8) When a new council passes a resolution under subsection (2) it shall publish notice of the resolution in the Belfast Gazette.

⁽⁷⁾ 1962 c. 14.

Designation of aldermen

4.—(1) Notwithstanding any provision in a charter or statutory provision which (immediately prior to the operative date) provides for the designation of aldermen, a council shall designate aldermen on or after that date in accordance with the following paragraphs of this regulation.

(2) In this regulation—

- (a) the word “quota” means the number of all voting papers divided by a number exceeding by one the number of aldermen to be elected with the addition of one to the result obtained from such division;
- (b) the words “surplus votes” shall mean the number of votes by which the total number of votes cast for any candidate at any stage of counting exceeds the quota; and
- (c) “special resolution” has the meaning given by section 148 of the 1972 Act.

(3) Aldermen shall be designated in accordance with the following rules—

- (a) the number of aldermen shall be such number as the council may determine but shall not exceed one quarter of the whole number of the councillors;
- (b) if the number of councillors nominated as a candidate for the position of alderman does not exceed the number determined by the council in accordance with subparagraph (a) and the council so agrees, those nominated councillors may be deemed to be elected to the position of alderman;
- (c) if subparagraph (b) does not apply, an alderman shall be elected by the council from among the councillors;
- (d) except in the case of an election of an alderman to fill a casual vacancy, the ordinary election of aldermen shall be held in every fourth year, being an election year;
- (e) subject to sub-paragraph (r), the ordinary election of aldermen shall be held at the annual meeting of the council;
- (f) every councillor of the council shall be entitled to vote at the election of an alderman, including in the case of an election to fill a casual vacancy, a councillor who is an alderman;
- (g) a councillor shall be a candidate for election as an alderman if—
 - (i) he is nominated as a candidate by one other councillor as proposer and another as seconder; and
 - (ii) he assents to the nomination.

Any nomination may be made, and any assent may be given, either in the course of the meeting or by a document signed by the councillor or councillors in question and delivered to the clerk of the council before the beginning of the meeting;

- (h) a councillor entitled to vote at a contested election of an alderman shall do so by signing and delivering at the meeting to the clerk of the council a voting paper containing in order of preference the full names of the candidate or candidates for whom he votes;
- (i) the clerk of the council shall, as soon as all the voting papers have been delivered to him, proceed to ascertain the result of the voting and shall state the number of votes given to each candidate at each stage of the counting of votes;
- (j) where at any stage of the council of votes the votes recorded for any candidate are equal to or greater than the quota, that candidate shall be deemed to be elected;
- (k) at each stage of the counting of votes the transfer of the surplus votes cast for any candidate shall be effected by the transfer of such surplus votes in proportion to the number of the next available preference votes expressed for other candidates in the voting papers of a successful candidate. If at any stage of the counting of votes two or more candidates have surplus votes, the largest surplus shall be transferred first;
- (l) if the quota is not achieved after the transfer of all surpluses (if any), the candidate or candidates with the highest number of votes shall be elected to fill the remaining vacancies;

- (m) in the case of an equality of votes for any candidates, the person presiding at the meeting may give a casting vote, whether or not he voted in the first instance, or if the person presiding declines to give a casting vote the matter shall be decided by lot;
- (n) in the case of a contested election the person presiding at the meeting shall declare to be elected as many candidates as there are vacancies to be filled, and in cases where fewer nominations are received than there are vacancies shall declare to be elected all the candidates nominated;
- (o) the minutes of proceedings of the meeting, in addition to recording the names of the councillors becoming aldermen, shall in the case of a contested election include the full names of the candidates to whom votes were given and a complete record of the number of votes recorded for each;
- (p) an alderman may resign his office of alderman without ceasing to be a councillor;
- (q) where a councillor, who has been elected an alderman (including a councillor elected an alderman to fill a casual vacancy), ceases for any reason to be a councillor, then that person shall also cease to be an alderman;
- (r) on a casual vacancy occurring in the office of alderman, that vacancy shall be filled by an election at the next annual meeting of the council;
- (s) the first ordinary election of aldermen shall be held at the annual meeting of the council held in accordance with regulation 6(5) of the Local Government (Transitional, Supplementary, Incidental Provisions and Modifications) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014⁽⁸⁾;
- (t) any questions or matters arising concerning the counting of votes shall be determined by the clerk of the council.

Freedom of the borough

5. Persons shall be admitted to the freedom of the borough in accordance with the following rules—

- (a) no person shall be admitted a freeman of the borough by gift or purchase;
- (b) the council of the borough may, in pursuance of a special resolution of the council, admit any person to be an honorary freeman of the borough;
- (c) the admission of a person to be an honorary freeman of the borough shall not confer the right of sharing in the benefit of any assets of the council, or of any assets held in whole or in part for any charitable use or trust;
- (d) the clerk of the council shall keep a list, called the freemen's roll, of all persons upon whom the freedom of the borough has been conferred.

Revocation

6. The Local Government (Modification of Borough Charters) Order (Northern Ireland) 1973⁽⁹⁾ is revoked.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of the Environment on ***

(L.S.)

Linda MacHugh
A senior officer of the Department of the Environment

⁽⁸⁾ S.R. 2014 No. 148.

⁽⁹⁾ S.R.&O. (N.I.) 1973 No. 207.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations make certain provisions in relation to borough charters of existing councils and their continuation in relation to a new council.

The Regulations also specify how a borough council may designate aldermen and admit persons to the freedom of the borough.