

Title of Report:	Local Government Elections 2027
Committee Report Submitted To:	Corporate Policy and Resources
Date of Meeting:	27 October 2026
For Decision or For Information	For Information
To be discussed In Committee	No

Linkage to Council Plan (2026-31)	
Strategic Theme	Engaging & Communicating With Our Customers
Outcome	Ensure communities across all District Electoral Areas feel connected to the Council and able to influence local decisions
Lead Officer	Chief Executive – Deputy Returning Officer Director Of Corporate Services – Assistant Deputy Returning Officer

Estimated Timescale for Completion	
Date to be Completed	May 2027

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	TBC
Included in Current Year Estimates	Yes
Capital/Revenue	Revenue – Election Reserve
Code	3107
Staffing Costs	Included

Legal Considerations	
Input of Legal Services Required	No
Legal Opinion Obtained	No

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this Report is to provide Members with a further update for next year's Local Government Elections.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The date for the Local Government Election is set in statute as the first Thursday in May every four years.
- 2.2 The Assembly Elections are held the first Thursday in May every five years.
- 2.3 Members will already be aware that the Secretary of State has announced that there will be combined Elections for both the Local Government and Assembly Elections with Polling Day taking place on Thursday 06 May 2027.

3.0 Election Registration

- 3.1 Eligible Electors can now have their details registered online at:
<https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>
- 3.2 The service can be used to:
- get on the Electoral Register to be able to vote in Elections and Referendums
 - opt out of the '[open](#)' register - the version of the Electoral Register that can be purchased by UK residents
 - update name, address or nationality by registering again with the new details (for someone who lives in the UK)

4.0 Eligible Photographic Identification

- 4.1 In order to vote in the May 2027 Elections, one of the following pieces of photographic identification must be produced:

- A UK, Ireland or European Economic Area driving licence - photo part (provisional accepted)
- A UK, Ireland or European Union passport (including the Irish Passport Card)
- A Translink SmartPass
- A Biometric Immigration Document
- An Electoral Identity Card

5.0 Polling Places Scheme Consultation

5.1 Members will be aware that the Consultation for the Polling Places Scheme was presented to Council at its Meeting on 01 September 2026.

5.2 The following response was submitted:

"Balamore primary school (has been lost) as a polling station. Under the electoral office guidelines, it is proposed that those who used the school as their polling station will now have to travel to either the Eden, Model, or St. Brigid's when we have a perfectly good facility in the community hall."

5.3 The final Polling Places Scheme will be published in November 2026 with only the Chief Electoral Officer being able to make changes to the Scheme after date, and only for operational reasons.

5.4 Electors will be informed of their Polling Place via their Poll Card and for 95% of Electors, there will be no change.

6.0 Interactive Map

6.1 The information regarding the Electoral Office's interactive map was presented to Elected Members at September's Committee Meeting.

As it is such a useful tool, details are being shared again for ease of reference.

6.2 The interactive map can be accessed by clicking the following link:

<https://nielectoral-maps.wheredoivote.co.uk/map/#map=12.35/55.17134/-6.57406>

6.3 Users can choose to view the map by Council, DEA or Assembly boundaries whilst in standard map view(OSNI) or aerial photo view. These options are available on the menu to the left of the map.

6.4 Users can click on any Polling Place and find its:

- Address
- Polling Place ID
- Council
- Constituency, DEA, Total Number of Boxes and Total Electorate

6.5 There is a facility available to enter a postcode and the map will then identify the relevant Polling Place for that address.

7.0 NW200

7.1 Members will already be aware that there had been a potential clash between Polling Day 2027 and the NW200 which would have had significant implications for those Voters attending the Polling Place at Carnalridge Primary School.

7.2 The Event Director has since confirmed that, after liaising with BSB Organisers and other bodies, the dates of the 2027 NW200 will be:

- Tuesday 11 May – practice
- Thursday 13 May – practice and evening racing
- Saturday 15 May – main race day

8.0 Recommendation

8.1 Members are asked to note the information provided above and be advised that Officers will continue to work in preparation for the Local Government Elections 2027 and also continue to represent Council on the Electoral Office NI's Steering/Working Groups.