

## Implementing the RPA



Welcome to the first issue of Reform News which aims to keep you informed about progress on the implementation of the Review of Public Administration (RPA). Future updates will be issued as we implement the reforms.

Over the next three years, Northern Ireland's public services will be radically transformed. A substantial programme of investment in public services will be matched by an ambitious programme of reform. The number of public authorities will be dramatically reduced. Resources will be transferred from supporting bureaucracy to improving front line services such as health and education.

The vision for RPA established by the former Executive was to provide better, more accountable services to citizens. Delivering this vision will be

the greatest single challenge faced by the public sector in 30 years.

As NIO Minister with specific responsibility for reform, the challenge of delivering on this reform programme will be a priority. I have no doubt that this challenge will be a key priority for the returning Executive.

In this issue you will find news from the health and education sectors and local government. Also included for your reference is a timeline detailing key dates in RPA implementation.



**David Hanson MP**

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## Minister meets local business leaders

Over the last few months Minister David Hanson has met with business leaders

across the province to update them on the implementation of the

Government's wide ranging public sector and civil service reform programme.



During a visit to Derry, Finance Minister, David Hanson met Londonderry Chamber of Commerce representatives. Pictured with the Minister are Vice President, Ian Crowe, Chief Executive, Janice Tracey, and President Ann Marie Slavin.

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## Government agrees to PSC guidance

The Secretary of State, Peter Hain, announced the formation of the Public Service Commission (PSC) on 8 March 2006.

The Review of Public Administration will require substantial transfers of staff to new organisations in Health, Education and Local Government. The Commission's role is to make recommendations on the Guiding Principles to safeguard the interests of staff and to ensure their smooth transfer into these new organisations.

Government has accepted four PSC Guiding Principles, these focus on staff transfers, communication, managing vacancies effectively and filling posts in new organisations. Government has ensured these recommendations are circulated across the public sector as the Review of Public Administration is implemented across Northern Ireland.

Further details about the PSC, including the full text of their recommendations, can be found at [www.pscni.gov.uk](http://www.pscni.gov.uk)

# RPA Unit publishes Common Boundaries and Capacity Building reports

RPA Central Unit has published reports on Common Boundaries and Capacity Building. Both are cross-cutting themes, likely to affect or impact on the work of more than one department and therefore are key to the successful implementation of the RPA.

Common Boundaries was identified as one of the guiding principles which enables organisations to provide joined up services for residents. Case studies were used from Scotland, Japan and Sweden. Like Northern Ireland, these countries have undergone changes in local government or in the delivery of their public services. The research has suggested that the ideal of a citizen-centred, service provision will be dependent

on a number of critical factors working in harmony together.

Capacity Building ensures organisations can continue to function and provide services throughout all stages of the change process. The RPA team looked closely at Belgium, Canada, Denmark and Finland as they had experienced Capacity Building in a period of major reform. The report emphasised the need for building considerable capacity across the programme in order for RPA to be a success.

The research reports are available on the RPA website [www.rpani.gov.uk/index/research.htm](http://www.rpani.gov.uk/index/research.htm)

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## Local Government Reform

Agreement has been reached on a new structure for the Local Government Taskforce to deliver the implementation of the modernisation and reform programme.

A Strategic Leadership Board will be established, chaired by the DOE Minister with the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) President as vice-Chair. The Board will give direction to the programme, and five Policy Development Panels, chaired by elected representatives will take forward the development of policy in relation to the key

areas identified earlier in the year.

The Panels will cover the following areas:

- Human Resources and Capacity Building
- Shared Services, Finance and Estates
- Community Planning and Governance
- Central / Local Relations and Performance Management
- Transfer of Functions.

The Strategic Leadership Board and each of the Policy Development Panels will comprise 10 elected members and appropriate

expertise drawn from both central and local government. Each will be supported by a joint secretariat provided by DOE and the local government sector.

A Social Partners Forum will also be established to ensure that they are engaged in the reform programme and can influence the future shape of local government service delivery.

## Local Councils Boundaries

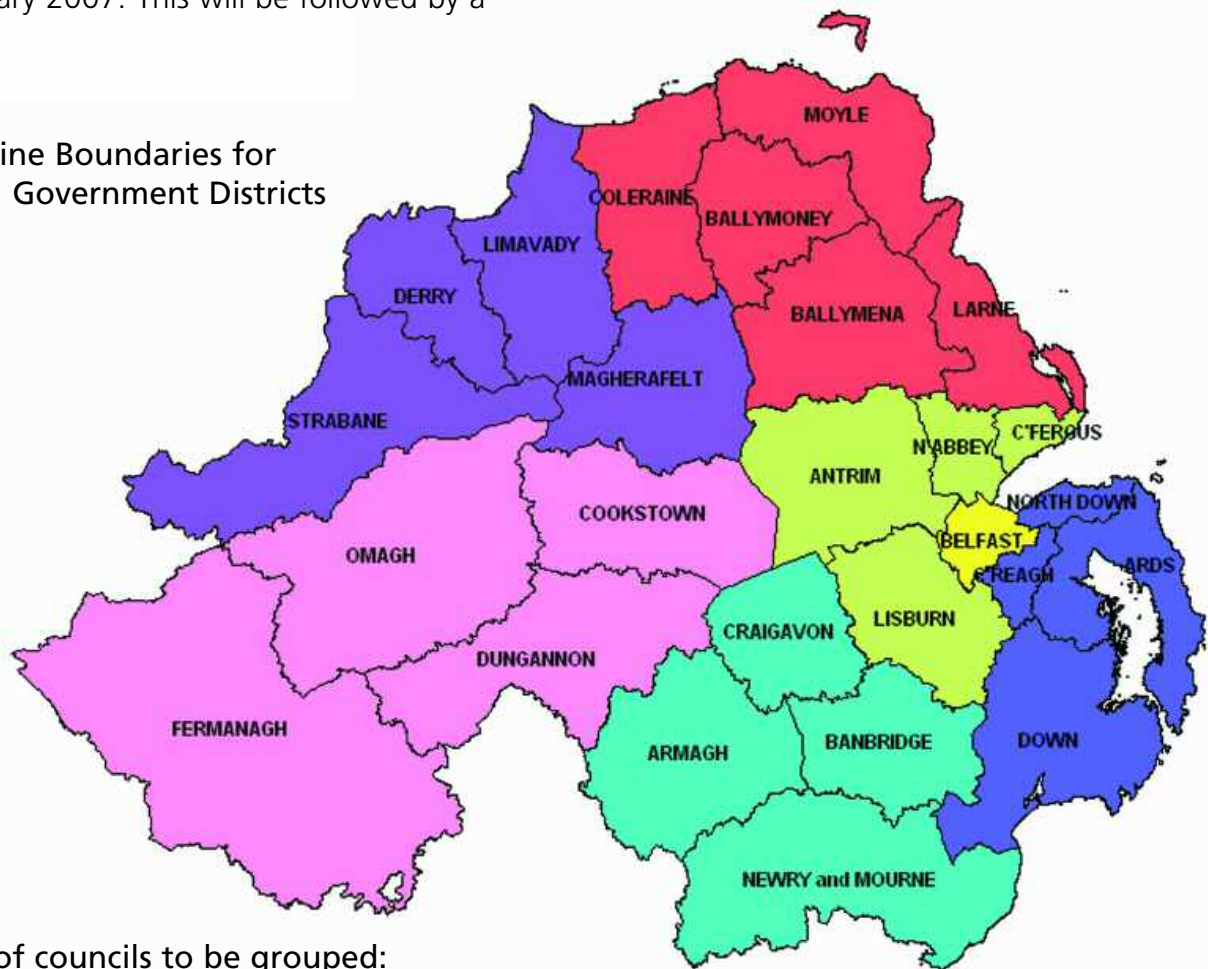
The Local Government Boundaries Commissioner was appointed in June. Dick Mackenzie CB has made proposals for the boundaries and names of the seven new local government districts in Northern Ireland. He has also proposed 60 constituent wards.

programme of seven public hearings, one in each of the new local government districts, held from 11 January 2007 until 9 February 2007.

The Commissioner is due to submit his final report to the DOE by 31 May 2007.

The consultation period will end on 5 January 2007. This will be followed by a

Outline Boundaries for local Government Districts



List of councils to be grouped:

1. **Belfast**
2. **North East Local Government District** - Ballymena; Ballymoney; Coleraine; Larne; Moyle.
3. **Inner East Local Government District** - Antrim; Carrickfergus; Lisburn City; Newtownabbey.
4. **East Local Government District** - Ards; Castlereagh; Down; North Down.
5. **South Local Government District** - Armagh City and District; Banbridge; Craigavon; Newry and Mourne.
6. **North West Local Government District** - Derry; Limavady; Magherafelt; Strabane.
7. **West Local Government District** - Cookstown; Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough; Fermanagh; Omagh.

## Public Hearings Schedule

Local Government District	Venue	Dates
North West	The City Hotel, Queen's Quay Derry, BT48 7AS Tel: 028 71 365800	11 and 12 January Morning session: 9.30am to 12.30pm Afternoon session: 2pm to 5pm
West	Omagh College, 2 Mountjoy Road, Omagh, BT79 7AH Tel: 028 82 245433	15 and 16 January Morning session: 9.30am to 12.30pm Afternoon session: 2pm to 5pm
Belfast	Belfast City Hall, Belfast, BT1 5GS Tel: 028 90 320202	18 and 19 January Morning session: 9.30am to 12.30pm Afternoon session: 2pm to 5pm
East	Lough Moss Leisure Centre, Carryduff, BT8 8HR Tel: 028 90 814884	23 and 24 January Morning session: 9.30am to 12.30pm Afternoon session: 2pm to 5pm
North East	University of Ulster, Coleraine Campus, Cromore Road, Coleraine, BT52 1SA Tel: 08700 400 700	30 and 31 January Morning session: 9.30am to 12.30pm Afternoon session: 2pm to 5pm
South	Armagh City Hotel, Friary Road, Armagh, BT60 4FR Tel: 028 37 518888	5 and 6 February Morning session: 9.30am to 12.30pm Afternoon session: 2pm to 5pm
Inner East	Templeton Hotel, 882 Antrim Road, Templepatrick, BT39 0AH Tel: 028 94 432984	8 and 9 February Morning session: 9.30am to 12.30pm Afternoon session: 2pm to 5pm

## HEALTH NEWS



### New Health Trust Chiefs Appointed

Chairs and Chief Executives of the new Health and Social Service Trusts have been appointed,

Area	Chair	Chief Executive
Southern	Anne Balmer	Colm Donaghy
South and East	Denise Fitzsimmons	John Compton
Western	Gerard Guckian	Elaine Way
Belfast	Patrick McCartan	William McKee CBE
Northern	James Stewart	Norma Evans

These five Trusts will take over the functions of the current 18 Trusts by 1 April 2007.

The Health and Social Services Authority (HSSA) Chief Executive Designate has been appointed. David Sissling took up his post in August 2006.

The role of the HSSA is to implement the Government's policies for health and social services and to manage performance of the system. The HSSA will also work in conjunction with primary care groups, to commission services in a two way relationship, meeting the demands of patients.

### Health and Social Services Planned Locally

The seven Local Commissioning Groups (LCG) mirroring the boundaries of the seven new councils will be set up to help deliver health and social care locally.

These groups represent a real move towards better service and care within local communities. GPs, nurses, pharmacists and other health and social care professionals will be involved in planning care for patients in their community. For example, GPs will be able to ensure that patients get hospital treatment on time and that older people receive the proper care and support they need once discharged from hospital.

A joint committee of the four existing Health and Social Services Boards is being set up to prepare for the beginning of local commissioning.





*RPA Timeline continued*

DATE	KEY AREA	ACTIVITY
April 07	Health	Five new Health and Social Service Trusts fully operational
May 07	Local Government	Boundaries Commissioner to make final recommendations to the Department of the Environment
July 07	Local Government	Primary legislation scheduled to be laid at Parliament
April 08	Health	Health and Social Services Authority operational
April 08	Health	Local Commissioning Groups fully operational
April 08	Health	Patient Client Council fully operational
April 08	Education & Libraries	Education and Skills Authority operational
April 08	Education & Libraries	New library authority operational
April 09	Local Government	New Councils assume full roles and responsibilities

## Contacts for more information

### Review of Public Administration Central Unit

Telephone: 028 9027 7675

Website: [www.rpani.gov.uk](http://www.rpani.gov.uk)

### Public Service Commission

Telephone: 028 9025 6017

Website: [www.pscni.gov.uk](http://www.pscni.gov.uk)

### The Office of the Local Government Boundaries Commissioner for Northern Ireland

Telephone: 028 9049 4870

Website: [www.lgbc-ni.org](http://www.lgbc-ni.org)



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Deputy First Minister**

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