

# Local Government reform – a chance to shape the future

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# Executive's Vision for Local Government

“...a strong, dynamic local government creating communities that are vibrant, healthy, prosperous, safe, sustainable and have the needs of all citizens at their core.”

Central to this vision is the provision of high quality, efficient services that respond to the needs of people and continuously improve over time.



# How Vision will be Achieved

- Reducing number of councils from 26 to 11
- Transferring some central government functions
- New powers created for local government – community planning and general power of competence
- New governance, ethical standards and performance management framework



# Local Government (NI) Act 2014

- New governance arrangements
- Ethical standards regime and a compulsory code of conduct
- Service delivery & performance improvement regime
- Partnership panel
- Community planning powers
- General Power of Competence



# Reform - recent progress

- Local Government (NI) Act 2014 - Royal assent 12 May
- Elections held 22 May 2014 – councillors for the 11 new councils elected
- Code of Conduct for councillors in force from 28 May 2014
- 10 month shadow period – new councils prepare to assume full powers from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015
- The Local Govt (Transitional, Supplementary, Incidental Provisions & Modifications) Regulations (NI) 2014 made on 2 June – these prescribe the powers & activities of new councils during shadow period



# ADDITIONAL POWERS/FUNCTIONS

- **Planning**

- Local development plan functions
- Development control and enforcement

- **Urban regeneration and community development**

- DSD extending powers to councils

- **Roads**

- Off street parking (except Park and Ride)

- **Local Economic Development** (transfer from Invest NI)

- **Local Tourism**

- **Housing**

- Registration of houses in multiple occupation/Housing unfitness

- **Other**

- Enhanced role in delivery of the EU Rural Development Programme
- Authority to Spot List on a temporary basis,
- Authority to draw up local lists of buildings that are of architectural and/or historic interest
- Armagh County Museum
- Local water recreational facilities
- Local sports (greater involvement of local government in local sports decisions)
- Donaghadee Harbour

# Community Planning

- Duty on councils and on all Departments
- Participation of other service providers
- Provision of guidance
- Public reporting
- Statutory Link to Local Development Plan
- General Power of Competence

# Performance Improvement

- Revised Performance Improvement Duty
- Provision of guidance
- Performance Indicators and Standards
- Performance Reporting
- Audit
- Power of Intervention / Enforcement



# Service Continuity

- 11 new Chief Executives appointed for new councils
- Focus on ensuring service delivery standards maintained
- Local Government Joint Forum
- Supported capacity building programme