

**REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARIES  
COMMISSIONER FOR THE DISTRICT OF  
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon**

Andrew Cassells, Assistant Local Boundaries Commissioner

**October 2021**

## Table of Contents

Table of Contents	1
Section One: <b>Background and Statutory Framework</b>	2
Section Two: <b>District Boundaries</b>	4
Section Three: <b>Ward Boundaries</b>	5
Section Four: <b>Names of District and/or wards</b>	6
Section Five: <b>Other Issues</b>	7
Section Six: <b>Summary of Conclusions</b>	8
Section Seven: <b>References and List of Submissions</b>	9
Part One: <b>List of Written Submissions</b>	
Part Two: <b>Oral Submissions at Public Hearing</b>	
Section Eight: <b>Appendices</b>	10

## Section One: **Background and Statutory Framework**

### **Background**

- 1.1 The commencement of the current Review of Local Government Boundaries in Northern Ireland was announced in a Public Notice on 03 February 2021 which explained the role and remit of the Local Government Boundaries Commissioner and advised that in due course the Commissioner would publish Provisional Recommendations and would cause a public hearing to be held in each of the eleven current Local Government Districts. The Notice and a subsequent information video placed on the Commissioner's website (<https://www.lgbc-ni.org.uk/>) explained the process and the opportunities for participation in the consultation on the Provisional Recommendations.
- 1.2 The terms of the Review are set out in Article 50 and Schedule 4 of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Act 1972 as amended. Copies of the legislative framework are available on the Commissioner's website.
- 1.3 The Commissioner's Provisional Recommendations with proposed boundaries and names of 11 Districts and their 462 constituent wards were published on the Commissioner's website on 27 July 2021 and announced by way of Public Notice, inviting comments on the proposals made. The consultation was launched on Citizen Space to enable ease of public inspection and maximum public participation. Accessibility points for online access to the Proposals and the consultation portal was facilitated at public facilities including Council premises and public libraries by the Commissioner's team in partnership with local councils and with Libraries Northern Ireland. Hard copies of any part of the Proposals or the associated maps as required by any person were made available on request. Other accessibility requirements were promoted on the Commissioners website including language translation, braille and sign language.
- 1.4 The consultation portal was open for 8 weeks and closed on 21 September 2021. Details of the programme of public hearings was notified by press release, social media channels and on the Commissioner's website in September 2021.
- 1.5 The Commissioner did not receive any written or personal representation in respect of the proposals in the District of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon
- 1.6 I was appointed as an Assistant Commissioner by The Department of Communities with effect from 1 August 2021. My task is to gather, assess and report on the representations made in relation to this proposed District of Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon and to submit a report to the Commissioner including my conclusions and recommendations, within four weeks of the end of the relevant public hearing. I conducted a public hearing

in this District at Armagh City Hotel, Armagh on Thursday 30th September 2021.

- 1.7 The Public Hearing was staged under the requirements of government guidance and observance of public health recommendations in respect of the Covid-19 Pandemic. Numbers in the room at any one time were limited to a maximum 20 persons with alternative participation facilitated by a simultaneous online interactive platform.

### **Public Hearing**

- 1.8 The Public Hearing on the Provisional Proposals saw no persons attend either in person or online. The hearing was facilitated in an informal and accessible manner.

### **My Report**

- 1.9 This report would have presented and addressed the written and oral views of interested parties in respect of the Commissioner's Provisional Recommendations for the District of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council. However, as stated above there were no representations.
- 1.10 As part of my research for this report I have studied and tested any areas of the District where alternative boundaries have been proposed by use of GIS mapping systems of the Land and Property Services of Northern Ireland. This has been facilitated by the staff of Ordnance Survey Northern Ireland and I am indebted to their technical assistance.

## Section Two: **District Boundaries**

- 2.1 The Commissioner's approach to the District boundary line is one of minimum intervention unless there is a compelling reason to do so. There have been no objections to this approach in this District and so I recommend that the Commissioner's proposal for the District line is affirmed.

## Section Three: **Ward Boundaries**

- 3.1 The Commissioner's approach to the Ward boundary lines is one of minimum intervention unless there is a compelling reason to do so. There have been no objections to this approach in this District and so I recommend that the Commissioner's proposal for the Ward lines is affirmed.

## Section Four: Names of District and/or Wards

- 4.1 There were no specific issues raised in this District regarding the naming of the District or any of its Wards. I therefore have no recommendations to make in relation to naming of the District or Wards. I am aware that there has been a wider representation across the whole Review in terms of the adoption of a bilingual or trilingual naming policy for the whole map of the Local Government Districts and Wards in Northern Ireland. This is a matter for wider consideration by the Commissioner rather than a local or District-specific issue.

## Section Five: **Other Issues**

5.1 There were no “Other Issues” raised in relation to this District.



## Section Six: **Summary of Conclusions**

- 6.1 As there were no representations made in relation to this District and the initial proposals by the Boundaries Commissioner I have no Recommendations or Conclusions to make in relation to the Ward or District Boundaries and names for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council.

## Section Seven: **References and List of Submissions**

### Part One: **List of Written Submissions**

### Part Two: **Oral Submissions at Public Hearing**

There were no Oral Submissions at the Hearing.

## Section Eight: **Appendices**

8.1 There are no Appendices to this Report.