



# Hampshire Association of Local Councils

President: Professor Gerry Stoker  
Chief Executive: Steven M Lugg

January 2015

Dear Member Council

cc. Chris Borg, NALC, All Board Members, Michelle Leadbitter (for policy webpage)

## **Superfast Broadband Update**

Lobbying and pushing for Broadband speeds across all Hampshire as quickly as possible at a minimum of 6meg(allows iplayer) is the current policy position for the ALC, and it is working closely with the HCC lead member, Cllr Gibson on this subject. Board Members understand that it is one of our top three priorities. The latest county position is as below.

HCC has contracted with BT to fund the gap in the rural areas which would otherwise not have been included in the BT SFB roll-out programme. The summary is as follows:

Hampshire summary :

- The County Council's ambition to extend the availability of superfast broadband matches that of the Government and, using funds from its own resources and several partners, it aims to support the provision of additional fibre-optic infrastructure that can deliver superfast speeds to as many extra premises as possible in areas where commercial provision has not been made.
- Private-sector investment is expected to make broadband services with a speed greater than 14 Mbps available to the majority of business and residential premises in Hampshire. The level of commercial provision is typically described as being in the region of 80% of premises.
- The County Council and its partners are in the process of adding at least 94,000 extra premises to the number able to access superfast broadband in Hampshire. This represents an increase equivalent to more than 15% of residential and business premises and does not include those premises which can connect to the new fibre infrastructure, but which are not guaranteed superfast speeds (i.e. the number of Total Homes Passed or Served by fibre')



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- The first phase of the programme is making superfast speeds available to some 59,500 premises. Over 65kms of new 'spine' fibre and 60kms of 'distribution' fibre have been laid so far and Hampshire is currently in the Top 5 of all programmes across the country in terms of the take-up by communities of the extra services that have been provided through public intervention.
  - The second contract is due to start delivery in 2016 and will add a further 34,500 premises at superfast speeds. This will extend the availability of high speed broadband services to cover more than 95% of premises in Hampshire.
  - A 'static' map showing the footprint of phase 2 of the programme was added to the Council's website on 19th December
- <http://www.hampshiresuperfastbroadband.com/about-the-project/project-areas/extension-to-95/>
- Hampshire attracted additional financial support from two other Government initiatives. The former Rural Communities Broadband Fund (RCBF) has enabled additional communities in the Test Valley and the New Forest to be added to the first phase of our programme; and the Innovation Fund will benefit an area to the south and east of Alresford.
  - The County Council's public-facing website includes a more user friendly map that can be searched by postcode. The data behind that map is being updated to reflect the extra coverage and this will continue to be a particularly useful resource for residents.
  - Residents who have registered their interest (and their postcode) with the County Council are e-mailed when superfast services become available in their area and the team has now arranged for individual Members to be alerted when new cabinets in their ward go live.
  - At present, the second phase of the programme is projected to finish later than anticipated. In part this reflects the scale and resource requirements of the national project as a whole, but the County Council is working with BT and the Department of Culture, Media and Sport and Broadband Delivery UK to review the timetable with the aim of bringing the completion date forward.



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· Further information about the programme is on Hantsweb and two recent Press Releases summarise the latest position:

<http://www.hampshiresuperfastbroadband.com/>

<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/hantswebnewslist?id=662624&stdat=&relatedlinks=no&pagetitle=Hampshire%20set%20to%20reach%2095%25%20of%20premises%20with%20high%20speed%20broadband>

<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/hantswebnewslist?id=662745&stdat=&relatedlinks=no&pagetitle=Join%20our%20superfast%20nation>

Your Contact is Cllr Andrew Gibson at [andrew.ga.gibson@bt.com](mailto:andrew.ga.gibson@bt.com), whom is also the County Link Cllr to the ALC Board, and he last briefed your County Executive in December 2014.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven M Lugg', with a stylized flourish at the end.



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **THE HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS CELEBRATES LIVING WAGE COMMITMENT**

**The Living Wage Foundation is pleased to announce that the Hampshire ALC, has today, been accredited as a Living Wage employer.**

The Living Wage commitment confirms that everyone working at the ALC, regardless of whether they are permanent employees or third-party contractors and suppliers; receive a minimum hourly wage of £7.85 - significantly higher than the national minimum wage of £6.50. Moreover, this has been done as a sign to the sector that we as community leaders – should lead in this area.

The Living Wage is an hourly rate set independently and updated annually. The Living Wage is calculated according to the basic cost of living using the 'Minimum Income Standard' for the UK. Decisions about what to include in this standard are set by the public; it is a social consensus about what people need to make ends meet.

Steven Lugg said, "It was not a hard decision for our Directors to make. Our communities and residents are the reason we exist, and we need to set an example in allowing acceptable living conditions.

Employers choose to pay the Living Wage on a voluntary basis. The Living Wage enjoys cross party support, with public backing from the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition.

**Living Wage Foundation Director, Rhys Moore** said: "We are delighted to welcome the Hampshire ALC to the Living Wage movement as an accredited employer.

"The best employers are voluntarily signing up to pay the Living Wage now. The Living Wage is a robust calculation that reflects the real cost of living, rewarding a hard day's work with a fair day's pay.

"We have accredited over 1,000 leading employers, including the ALC, ranging from independent printers, hairdressers and breweries, to well-known companies such as Nationwide, Aviva and SSE. These businesses recognise that clinging to the national minimum wage is not good for business. Customers expect better than that. "

**ENDS**

#### **Media Contact**

#### **Living Wage**

Gillian Owen, 07876 246 150, [gillian.owen@citizensuk.org.uk](mailto:gillian.owen@citizensuk.org.uk)

Steven Lugg, CE Hampshire ALC 02380 688 061



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## PRESS RELEASE

To: Local Media Contacts  
Rotary Clubs in International District 1110  
Parish and Town Councils in District 1110 (Hampshire & East Dorset)  
Leader Hampshire County Council & Cllr Gibson  
Selected Officers at HCC  
CE of Basingstoke & Deane Borough, Eastleigh Borough, East Hampshire, Hart, New Forest,  
Test Valley & Winchester  
Leader EDDC  
Alan Jones, NALC  
All CALCs  
All ALC Board Members  
All ALC Member Councils

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **GROWING COMMUNITY TOGETHER**

The Hampshire ALC has signed a Corporate Partnership with Rotary District 1110 on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2014, with plans to work together in 2015 across Hampshire and East Dorset.

For 2015, there are two main projects already taking shape. Firstly, Local Rotary Clubs will be inviting local councils to work in partnership in jointly improving winter lights displays for 2015. We have deliberately chosen 'Winter Lights' rather than Christmas displays to add an economic and social boost during the winter months November to February. Of course these lights can be integrated into any community's Christmas Lights display.

Secondly, an exciting charity cycle ride – The Rotary Ride - due to take place across the country on Father's Day 2015, being 21<sup>st</sup> June will be launched in Spring 2015. Communities will be invited to get involved with cycle rides, big and small, in 2015 to support Prostate Cancer charities.

Mike Jackson, District Governor of Rotary 1110 and Steven Lugg, CE, Hampshire ALC vowed to work together in growing community across the area.

Mike Jackson said, "Rotary is 'the Greatest Charity in the World' and is delivering a wide range of humanitarian projects on both the local, national and international

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Hampshire Association of Local Councils Limited  
c/o Eastleigh Borough Council, Floor 2, Eastleigh House, Upper Market Street, Eastleigh. SO50 9YN  
Tel: 02380 688061 E-mail: [hampshirealc@eastleigh.gov.uk](mailto:hampshirealc@eastleigh.gov.uk) Website: [www.hampshire-alc.gov.uk](http://www.hampshire-alc.gov.uk)  
Twitter: @hampshirealc

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stage. Rotary also has a wide range of business skills within its membership, and looks forward to working closely with local councils in growing community across our District."

Steven Lugg said, "We intend to support communities through improving our lights displays in towns and villages, and through a health and well-being focus in 2015. With the parish or town council as the local tax-raising body, co-joined with the financial and volunteering resources of Rotary, this is a positive and powerful partnership which is exciting for all."

– Ends –



Contacts:

Rotary –

<http://www.rotary-ribi.org/districts/homepage.php?DistrictNo=1110>

NALC - <http://www.nalc.gov.uk/>

Hampshire ALC - <http://www.hampshire-alc.gov.uk/>

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Hampshire Association of Local Councils Limited  
c/o Eastleigh Borough Council, Floor 2, Eastleigh House, Upper Market Street, Eastleigh. SO50 9YN  
Tel: 02380 688061 E-mail: [hampshirealc@eastleigh.gov.uk](mailto:hampshirealc@eastleigh.gov.uk) Website: [www.hampshire-alc.gov.uk](http://www.hampshire-alc.gov.uk)  
Twitter: @hampshirealc  
Registered in England – Company Registration No 6879309

## NALC Parliamentary briefing

### Local government finance settlement – December 2014

The National Association of Local Councils is the voice of 9000 local (parish and town) councils, the first tier of local government in England.

#### Key messages

- **The Government should use the local government finance statement to demonstrate its commitment and support to community-led action and grassroots local democracy through our most local level of government;**
- **The Government should not extend council tax referendum principles to parish and town councils;**
- **The Government must take action to ensure all billing authorities pass on council tax support funding to local councils in 2015/16, either through statutory guidance, identifying this funding in the settlement or passing it on direct to local councils.**

#### Parish finance

- In 2013/14 there were 8,788 local councils and parish meetings who set a precept (a form of council tax levied on residents), collectively this was around £366 million, with a further £40 million in council tax support funding from Government.
- The average annual Band D precept charged by local councils in 2014/15 is £52.74 (an increase of £2.50 or 5.0% from 2013/14), while the average Band D council tax set by principal councils is £1,468.

#### Council tax referenda

- The Localism Act contains a power for the Secretary of State to introduce referenda principles for increases in precept by local councils; NALC did not support this measure and lobbied against it during the passage of the Act.
- In May's local government finance statement for 2014/15, referenda principles were not extended to local councils, although this late notice and subsequent late decisions by billing authorities on whether to pass on funding to local councils was unhelpful and made setting the precept for 2014/15 extremely problematic.
- Some local councils are mitigating funding shortfalls caused by both the localisation of council tax support and taking on the delivery of more services for their community (including using new community rights such as neighbourhood planning) with small-scale precept increases.
- The Government has previously stated higher spending local councils which levy a precept similar to principal councils (Band D of around £160) are on notice and referenda principles may be applied.
- Local councils are democratically elected bodies and should be free from Government interference in setting their precept.



- The Government should not extend council tax referendum principles to parish and town councils in the 2015/16 local government finance settlement.

#### Council tax support funding

- Prior to 2013/14 local authorities were given a grant by the Department for Work and Pensions to cover the cost of council tax benefit in their area.
- Government amended the prescribed taxbase formula for 2013/14 and to compensate for a decrease in the taxbase local authorities received funding of £3.3 billion in 2013/14 and in 2014/15 towards the cost of local council tax support schemes.
- The golden thread of parish financing was broken with the introduction of localised council tax support schemes, removing independence and certainty.
- Government provided £3.3 billion of council tax support funding to billing authorities in 2013/14, with £40 million specifically earmarked for local councils; but only £39 million was actually passed on, with ten councils passing on nothing at all.
- This position worsened in 2014/15 with over 30 councils defying repeated instructions from ministers to devolve the £40 million and choosing to pass on nothing at all, with scores more reducing the amount given to local councils in their area, passing on only £31 million – leaving parishes £9m short.
- The combined effect of funding shortfalls caused by the localisation of council tax support is damaging localism and community empowerment, at a time when Government and principal councils are encouraging more partnership working between the tiers of local government, as well as devolution of services to the local level, including to local councils.
- Relationships between local and principal councils are being strained, damaged and undermined; this is overshadowing the many examples of good, effective partnerships and joint working.
- Local councils are being forced to reduce spending on services, cut services altogether and/or increase the precept to meet shortfalls in funding largely as a result of the localisation of council tax support.
- There remains a tension between local councils developing and expanding their role, delivering new services, taking on services from principal councils and the Government's expectation that precepts should not increase and in turn impact on overall council tax.
- Indications are the number of principal councils choosing not to pass on any council tax support funding to local councils will increase in 2014/15.
- The Government must take action to ensure all billing authorities pass on council tax support funding to local councils in 2015/16, either through statutory guidance, identifying this funding in the settlement or passing it on direct to local councils.

#### **Contact**

For more information contact Justin Griggs, Head of Policy and Development on 020 7290 0317 or [justin.griggs@nalc.gov.uk](mailto:justin.griggs@nalc.gov.uk)



## New Forest and Waterside Bus Changes for January 2015

Service no.	Route	Change	Comments
X1/X2	Lymington – Bournemouth	Reduced timetable, commercially operated Sunday service withdrawn by operator	On being told that they had not won the council issued tender, Go South Coast declared the service commercial and are running the reduced level of service with no financial support
6	Lymington – Brockenhurst – Southampton	Reduced council funded timetable, but operator running some extra journeys on a commercial basis. Council funding for Sunday service withdrawn	Sunday service now operated commercially by operator
112	Lymington – Hythe	No change	
118	Lymington – Ringwood	Service withdrawn	Market day only service
119	Lymington – Hordle – New Milton	Saturday service withdrawn	To keep within existing budget
191	New Milton - Chatsworth	Saturday service withdrawn	To keep within existing budget
193	New – Barton on Sea	No Change	
175	Ringwood – Bransgore - Christchurch	Funding for service withdrawn	Commercial service introduced
49	Fordingbridge – Whitsbury – Salisbury	No change	Slight increase in contract cost
41	Alderholt – Woodgreen - Salisbury	Funding for service withdrawn	Operator is running the service commercially
T1 & T2	Totton local services	Services withdrawn	Was part funded by Totton & Eling Town Council
T3 & T4	Totton – Cadnam	Service reduced to 3 days pw	
H1 & H2	Hythe local services	Service reduced to 3 days pw	
8 & 9	Calshot - Fawley	Funding for peak hour extensions to commercial service withdrawn	Operator is running the service commercially

**Graham Flexman**

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**Subject:** NFALC Agenda Item 5 Part D - Light pollution

**From:** Jim and Sally Spark [<mailto:sales@purple-properties.co.uk>]

**Sent:** 12 January 2015 12:01

**To:** Graham Flexman

**Cc:** Natasha

**Subject:** NFALC Agenda Item 5 Part D - Light pollution

Dear members,

A happy new year to all and apologies for Non-attendance from Ellingham Harbridge and Ibsley Parish Council.

For Item 5. Part D. Light pollution. I have the following Update.

We have been pleased to see several planning applications recently where applicants have been asked, in pre-application discussions, to consider the effects of light pollution. The NPA, in particular, are being responsive to our requests in planning comments most notably where the eaves of a roof have been extended to overhang external lighting. This dramatically reduces the upward pollution of unnecessary light.

The NPA and have, on occasion, requested that outside lighting be included in materials submissions. This is a great move forward and applicants can be asked to specify that external lighting is only activated when there is a need because PIR fittings can be requested.

We are still waiting and researching what other national parks do in areas with 'Dark Skies' policies.

What can councillors do to help?

Light pollution is not only an issue for the rural and forested areas. Outside lights which are permanently left on at night help burglars and waste huge amounts of energy. It is a light that comes on that deters a burglar not one that is already helping him see open windows and places to hide..

Please help to highlight this issue by requesting, in your planning returns, and when discussing applications at meetings, that outside lighting is controlled with a PIR. Just two outside lights left on overnight wastes enough energy to boil a kettle for an hour!!!! Multiply that by the number of houses in your town...

Kind regards,

Jim Spark



**PARLIAMENTARY, DISTRICT &  
PARISH ELECTIONS  
7 MAY 2015**

**BRIEFING FOR NFALC  
15 January 2015**

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## **THE TEAM**

Dave Yates – NFDC Chief Executive (Acting/Returning Officer)  
Rosemary Rutins (Deputy)  
Tina Harwood (Electoral Services Officer)  
Debbie Everett  
Richard Woods  
Christine Kiessling  
Others on topic basis

Contact Number for all queries: (023) 8028 5445  
E-mail: [electoralservices@nfdc.gov.uk](mailto:electoralservices@nfdc.gov.uk)

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## **MAY 2015 ELECTIONS**

- Parliamentary (New Forest East & New Forest West constituencies)
- 34 District Wards (8 single member, 26 two members) – total to be elected 60
- 37 Town/Parish Councils; 11 warded; total to be elected 350
- Receive about 600 nomination papers
- 100 possible contests; likely about 60

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## **ELECTORAL COMMISSION'S GUIDANCE**

- [www.electoralcommission.org.uk](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk)
- Specific guidance for parish & town council elections
- Code of conduct for campaigners – attached
- Revised approach to campaigning at polling stations

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## **RETURNING OFFICER**

- Must be “deliberately and positively” neutral
- Not referee between parties
- No power to take direct action where there is a criminal offence
- But has same rights as ordinary citizen to report criminal offences, including election offences

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## **COMBINATION OF ELECTIONS - SOME ISSUES**

- Different franchises – not all (mainly EU citizens) entitled to Parliamentary vote
- Separate ballot boxes for each election
- Count – two centres  
Applemore & New Milton overnight 7 May, start 10.15 p.m. – verifying all papers and counting Parliamentary  
Applemore only Friday 8 May, start 1 p.m. - counting all District and Parish

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## CHANGES SINCE 2011

- Individual Electoral Registration (IER)
- Deadline for withdrawals now same time as closure of nominations – no opportunity for candidates to see who is standing before withdrawing
- Nominations deadline now 4 p.m., not noon
- Must hand deliver nomination papers
- Statement of persons nominated now published day earlier, but by 4 p.m. not noon
- Electors in queue at 10 p.m. may vote
- Might remove numbering candidates on ballot paper

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## ELECTION TIMETABLE:

Publication of Notice of Election	Local – by 30 March, intend to publish Friday 27 March
Start of purdah period	Monday 30 March
Deadline for Nominations	Thursday 9 April, 4.00 p.m.
Deadline for withdrawals	Thursday 9 April, 4.00 p.m.
Publication of Statement of Persons nominated	Friday 10 April, by 4.00 p.m.
Deadline for applications to register to vote to be effective at 7 May election	Monday 20 April, midnight (but must go through verification process)
Deadline for applications to vote by post	Tuesday 21 April, 5 p.m.
First Issue of postal votes	Tuesday 21 April, overseas hopefully before then
Opening of Postal Votes	Daily (weekdays) from Thursday 23 April to Thursday 7 May, and then at counts
Polling	Thursday 7 May, 7 a.m. – 10 p.m.
Verification of all papers (Parliamentary, District & Parish)	Thursday 7 May 10.15 p.m. at Applemore or New Milton H&L
Count of Parliamentary papers	Following verification on night of 7 May
Count of District papers	1.00 p.m. Friday 8 May, all at Applemore
Count of Parish papers	Friday 8 May, all at Applemore, following count of District papers

## ELECTION EXPENSES

- Must account for expenditure on your campaign
- "Regulated period" starts 30 March
- Expenses limits - £740 plus 6p per elector as at last date for publication of Notice of Election; reduced by quarter for two joint candidates; by a third when three or more
- Detailed advice and examples in EC Guide
- Queries regarding expenses to EC

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## EFFECTS OF IER

- Process for registration now takes longer – elector details must be "confirmed"
- Data matching with Government records through GDS (Government Digital Service)
- If not confirmed through GDS, ERO must try to confirm - local data matching, other documentary evidence or, as last resort, attestation process

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## EFFECTS OF IER (Cont)

- Effects possibly compounded if elector applies to vote by post
- Electors who haven't been confirmed may still be on register but no longer entitled to postal vote
- Registered political parties (at national, not local, level) entitled to ask between 1 January and 27 February 2015 for list of electors who haven't been confirmed

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## IMPORTANT MESSAGES FOR CANDIDATES/AGENTS

- Get supporters registered and absent vote applications in early, especially overseas
- Invite postal vote applications only from confirmed electors

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## THE OBVIOUS (or not so?)

- Quadrennial, "all-out" election
- All Councillors wishing to continue must stand for election – must submit nomination papers
- If the same or fewer candidates stand than there are places, all "elected unopposed" and can co-opt to remaining vacancies
- If more candidates than places, election follows
- If not enough candidates for quorum (at least 3 and at least one-third), RO must order fresh election

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## CANDIDATES' RIGHTS & DUTY

- Attend various electoral events
- Observe proceedings inside polling stations
- Attend opening of postal votes & object to rejection of postal voting statements
- Observe count & object to rejection of ballot papers
- Duty to maintain secrecy of ballot

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## POSTAL VOTES

- See code of conduct for campaigners (attached to handout)
- Please use NFDC'S application forms – we'll provide as many as you want. You may add Party logos.
- Please ask party workers to collect electors' telephone numbers

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## POSTAL VOTES (Cont)

- Combined issue – Parliamentary, District and Parish
- Main issue Tuesday 21 April
- Subsequent issues for later applications
- Daily from Thursday 23 April, including on 7 May
- PVs may be handed in at polling stations **within electoral area**

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## POLLING DAY

- Polling stations open 7am – 10 pm
- Electoral Services office open 6.15 am – 10 pm
- Two polling stations closed following polling districts review:  
**Thorney Hill Community Centre**, Bransgore – voters allocated to Bransgore Village Hall  
**Bisterne Village Hall** – voters allocated to Trinity Centre, Ringwood

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## POLLING DAY – TELLERS

- Largest source of complaints from the public
- May not impede or interfere with any electors prior to voting
- May not be inside the polling station
- Tellers shouldn't take cards from voters – concerns about personal details on cards
- Please ensure tellers briefed

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## **POLLING DAY (AND BEFORE) - POSTERS AND CAMPAIGN SIGNS**

- May be on private property with the consent of the owner of the property
- Offence to pay an elector for displaying election advertisements, unless part of their normal business
- Must be removed within 14 days of date of poll
- Signs on highway land will **not** be permitted

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## **CAMPAIGN MATERIAL**

- Check EC guidance for requirements
- Imprints must be on all campaign material, including websites
- Must include name and address of the printer and the promoter – example  
"Printed by ABC Printers, 1 High Street, Anytown"  
"Promoted by AN Agent, 2 Low Street, Anytown, on behalf of Candidate A N Other (or Vote for Me Party)"

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## **COUNT**

- Large operation over two centres; detailed planning still in progress
- Regulations require all votes at all combined elections to be verified before any results announced
- All papers verified overnight; Parliamentary counted overnight, District & Parish Friday 8 May

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## **COUNT (Cont)**

- District count starting 1.00 p.m. Friday 8 May – all at Applemore
- Parish count on rolling basis as District counts are completed – all at Applemore
- Results published on District Council's website as soon as declared

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## **AFTER THE POLL AND COUNT**

- Take office 4 days after date of election
- Must sign declaration of acceptance of office before acting as Councillor
- Must complete register of interests form within 28 days
- Deadline for submitting election expenses Friday 5 June

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## **CONTACTS**

- Electoral Services (for registration, postal vote and other routine queries):  
(023) 8028 5445;  
electoralservices@nfdc.gov.uk
- Dave Yates & Rosemary Rutins:  
(023) 8028 5588;  
dave.yates@nfdc.gov.uk;  
rosemary.rutins@nfdc.gov.uk

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