

7 VISIT TO NORTHERN IRELAND TO OBSERVE STV COUNTING PROCESS (AN177-2005)

An invitation has been extended by the Electoral Commission for Scottish Councils to observe the counting process for an election using the Single Transferable Vote method (STV) of proportional representation. This is the form of voting to be used for the next Scottish Local Government elections in 2007.

The Northern Ireland local government elections are to be combined with the General Election on 5th May, 2005, with the local government STV count being held over two days on 9th and 10th May, 2005.

The Returning Officer had already made arrangements for the Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) and the Corporate Finance Manager to attend at the Belfast City Council Count on his behalf. This latest invitation from the Electoral Commission is for each Scottish Council to send an elected member and the Council's instructions are now requested in that regard. The only costs involved will be travel and subsistence.