



NAC National Chair & Vice President Appointed – November 2021

At the NAC UK Annual General Meeting and Conference which took place on 26- 28 November 2021 in Lytham saint Annes, Cllr Beth Adger was appointed as National Vice President and Cllr Charlie Casey was appointed as National Chairperson.



The NAC NI Regional Chair, Cllr Terry Andrews congratulated Cllr Casey and Cllr Adger, on behalf of the NAC NI Members, saying that it is a great achievement for two members from NI to hold these positions.

Cllr Casey and Cllr Adger will be invited attend National Executive meetings and future National Conferences.

NAC NI Long Service Awards 2021



The NAC feel that long serving councillors set an example to others and it is important that their dedication and commitment is recognised and celebrated. In 2021 awards were presented to members that have each served for over 32 years as councillors.

The NAC NI Chair, Alderman Tommy Sandford made the presentations during the NAC NI AGM on 15 October to -
Ald Derek Hussey, Cllr Allan Rainey, Cllr Paul McLean, and Cllr Trevor Wilson.



Cllr Sean Clarke and Cllr Henry Reilly also received this award but were not in attendance at the AGM.



New NAC Northern Ireland Region Chair Appointed – October 2021



Councillor Terry Andrews has been appointed as Chair of the National Association of Councillors, NI Region at the NAC NI Annual General Meeting which took place in Cookstown on 15 October 2021.

Councillor Andrews thanked his fellow-party members, Councillor Dermot Curran, and Councillor Christine McFlynn sincerely, for proposing and seconding his nomination in the election of officers which was presided over by the National Secretary of the NAC, Councillor Brian Nelson. The newly appointed Chair then went on to say:

“I would like to pay tribute to my predecessor Alderman Sandford who I worked alongside as his deputy for two years, I found him to be kind, courteous and a pleasure to work with and I wish Tommy all the best for the future. I look forward to working with my colleagues and good friends on the NAC along with our sister local government organisations, Government Departments and Agencies over the coming term ending in 2023 and to maintaining and enhancing our close relationships with them and being part of a great team of Councillors”.

Cllr Andrews also said that he is honoured and proud to be appointed as Chairperson and that he will do his best for colleagues and members, especially in the times that we are now in and facing the many challenges that lay ahead.



Earlier the outgoing Chair, Alderman Tommy Sandford opened the AGM saying that the day would be one of mixed feelings for him as it would be his last event as Chair of the NAC Northern Ireland region. He said that he has been actively involved in this organisation over many years and is very proud to have been part of the Executive Committee here in Northern Ireland and to have carried out the role of Chair for the past two years. He thanked the NAC Secretary Councillor Joe Boyle, the NAC Treasurer Alderman Angus Carson, and the members of the NAC Executive Committee for their support and input to the organisation.

He also paid tribute to the NAC UK Officers saying he has enjoyed meeting and engaging with NAC Members across the regions by attending the UK conferences; he also spoke of the good working relationship and that has developed with fellow councillors across Ireland through their respective representative organisations - the Association of Irish Local Government, AILG and the Local Authority Members Association, LAMA.



Long Serving Councillors honoured – February 2020



In February 2020, the NAC, NI Region honoured three more of our longest serving members by presenting them with NAC Long Service Certificates.

This award was created to show our appreciation to Elected Members that have provided many years of dedicated work in their support of others, and in recognition of their outstanding contribution to public and community service.

The awards were presented by the NAC Chair, Ald Tommy Sandford and NAC Secretary, Cllr Joe Boyle to Ald Fraser Agnew and Ald Tommy Nicholl for 39 years service each and Ald Robert Gibson for 35 years service. They join previous award recipients Cllr Dermot Curran (now 47 years service), Ald Jim Dillon and Ald Jim Speers (now 43 years service).

Local Government Awards 2020

The NAC are delighted to announce that their sponsored category award for ‘Best Initiative by a Councillor/Councillor Group’ has been awarded to Cllr Cheryl Johnston of Mid and East Antrim Borough Council at the Local Government Awards ceremony.

As usual the standard of entries was extremely high, and the NAC Officers thank Elected Members, Councils and Staff that took the time to submit entries for our award category.





Freedom of the City of Lisburn & Castlereagh - February 2020

The NAC officers and members are delighted that the high accolade of Freedom of the City of Lisburn & Castlereagh has been awarded to one of our longest serving councillors, Alderman Jim Dillon MBE JP for his contribution to public life.

Mr Tommy Jeffers and Mrs Geraldine Rice MBE, former members of the NAC, have also been made Freemen for their long service and commitment to their work as elected members and we extend our congratulations to all.



LCCC Mayor, Cllr Alan Givan, Tommy Jeffers, Ald Jim Dillon MBE JP, Geraldine Rice MBE, and Chief Executive, David Burns

Belfast's 119th High Sheriff - December 2019



*Ald Tommy Sandford, NAC Chair with Ms Kate Wilson,
NAC Admin Assistant at Belfast City Hall December 2019*

The NAC Chair, Alderman Tommy Sandford is approaching the end of his one-year term as High Sheriff of Belfast. He was appointed to this prestigious role in January 2019 by the then Secretary of State, Karen Bradley following a nomination from Belfast City Council.

Alderman Sandford said it was an honour to be appointed as the High Sheriff of his "beloved city" and he thoroughly enjoyed fulfilling the role during a busy and eventful year.

He wished all NAC Members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



NAC National Vice-Chair Appointed – November 2019

Councillor Charlie Casey has been elected as National Vice-Chair at the NAC UK Annual General Meeting and Conference which took place during November 2019 in Chester. The position, which is appointed on a regional rotational basis, will be for a period of two years.

The outgoing Chair was Councillor Marie Garrity from the Scotland region who has been replaced by Cllr Steven Brookes as nominated by the Welsh region councillors. The Northern Ireland members in attendance at the AGM congratulated all the new office bearers on their appointments.

L to R – NAC NI Region Senior Vice-Chair, Cllr Terry Andrews and NAC NI Region Chair, Ald Tommy Sandford congratulate the new NAC National Vice-Chair, Cllr Charlie Casey on his recent appointment.



Social Enterprise Northern Ireland Gala Awards Event – October 2018



NAC Regional Secretary, Cllr Joe Boyle and NAC Executive Committee Member, Cllr Robert Burgess

The National Association of Councillors were proud to support the Annual Social Enterprise NI Gala Awards event this year for the first time.

The awards showcase the Social Enterprise Sector in Northern Ireland and representatives from the National Association of Councillors attended the Gala Evening which was held in The Stormont Hotel, Belfast on Friday 19 October 2018.

This year Social Enterprise NI received over 100 entries for awards spanning over 13 categories. At the event, which was hosted by UTV's Paul Clark, there were over 400 Guests from Social Enterprise, Private and Public Sectors throughout Northern Ireland.



New Award for Councillors

The National Association of Councillors has created a new award for Councillors that have provided many years of dedicated work in their support of others, and during that time have made an outstanding contribution to public and community service.



NAC Long Service Awards

L to R: NAC Regional Secretary Councillor Joe Boyle, Alderman Jim Speers MBE, Councillor Dermot Curran, Alderman Jim Dillon MBE JP and NAC Chairman Alderman Michael Henderson MBE

Three Councillors, who have served over 125 years between them, were the first to receive the long service award certificates, which were kept as a closely guarded secret until they were presented on Thursday 12 October 2018.

The awards were made as follows:

For over 45 years service -

Councillor Dermot Curran of Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

For over 40 years service –

Alderman Jim Speers of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council

And

Alderman Jim Dillon Of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Councillor Joe Boyle, the NAC Regional Secretary said:

“In recent years Councillors responsibilities and demands for their time and services have increased significantly in relation to carrying out their roles in public life, while continuing to provide support to their constituents and communities. Long serving Councillors set an example to others and we feel that it is important that their dedication and commitment is recognised and celebrated”.