



National Association of Councillors Northern Ireland Region Members' Newsletter April 2022

Meetings Update



On Wednesday 16 March 2022, the first NAC Members' Meeting to be hosted by a council since January 2020 was held in the Council Chamber at the Craigavon Civic & Conference Centre. Due to on-going restrictions a limited number of members were permitted to attend in-person with others joining in on-line by Zoom.



The NAC Chair, Cllr Terry Andrews thanked Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council on behalf of the NAC for hosting the meeting. He expressed his heartfelt appreciation to the ABC Lord Mayor, Aldermen, Councillor Colleagues and Officers, and he commented on the high level of facilities available in the building and chamber. He thanked the staff for looking after the NAC members in attendance, and for ensuring that everything went smoothly on the IT side for the hybrid aspect of the meeting.

The next NAC Members Meeting will be held in the Belfast region on **Wednesday 25 May 2022**, we are currently arranging a venue and when confirmed the details will be published on the [NAC NI Website](#) and circulated in advance to Delegates that have been nominated by their Council.

NAC National Conferences

The most recent conference was held in Glasgow at the end of February with a good turn-out from the NI Region.

The next conference on Leisure & Tourism is taking place in Scarborough from 8 to 10 April 2022, details have been circulated to all NAC members and councils.

AILG Spring Conference

The NAC NI Chair, Cllr Andrews and Secretary, Cllr Boyle were invited by the AILG President, Cllr Nicholas Crossan to attend their Spring Conference which took place on 23 & 24 March in Buncrana, Donegal.

This followed contact that has been maintained by the NAC with both AILG and LAMA, to build upon the relationships that have been developed between our organisations over recent years.

The conference was very informative and the opportunity to share experiences with local government on councillor issues across the island is important and helpful for the NAC.

Councillor Equality

A draft Terms of Reference (TOR) document has been drawn up by the DfC Officials, this is in relation to the requested independently led review of the roles and responsibilities of councillors. The NAC EC have been asked to provide their views on the TOR before it is submitted to the Minister for consideration.

This is a positive step forward and the EC are currently working on this on behalf of our members. Despite what will happen in the future with the NI Assembly the NAC EC feel that it is important to continue with this process and they will continue working with the aim of getting the review signed off.

Councillors' Pension Scheme

This comes up regularly as a topic of interest for our members and we have provided further information overleaf.



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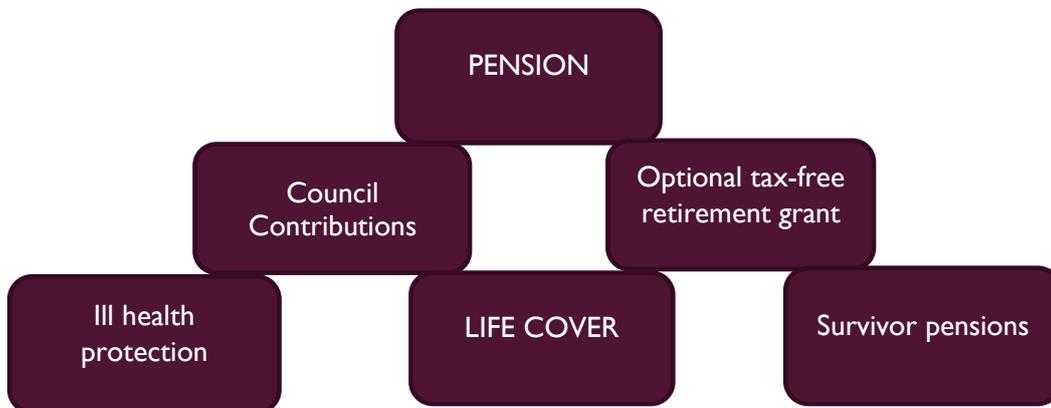


The Northern Ireland Local Government Officers Superannuation Committee – NILGOSC manage the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Northern Ireland

All Councillors are enrolled into the scheme however they can opt out.

Councillors that remain in the scheme will receive an annual benefit statement by post each year, these are usually issued in August. The statement provides an estimate of the pension that they have built up to the end of the last financial year. In addition, the statement shows an estimated lump sum death grant and survivor's pensions payable in the event of their death. This statement is an estimate, and all pension benefits will be subject to current legislation at the time of payment.

THE LGPS NI BENEFITS



In 2021 a presentation was provided by NILGOSC to NAC Members which covered the items listed below.

This presentation can be downloaded by [clicking here >>](#)

- Scheme background and joining
- Scheme benefits
- Contributions and contribution flexibility
- Leaving before retirement
- Types of Retirements,
- How my pension is worked out, including tax free retirement grant
- Survivor Benefits
- My NILGOSC Pension Online

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