



National Association of Councillors Northern Ireland Region Members' Newsletter April 2023

Meetings Update

On Wednesday 15 March 2023 the NAC held a Special General Meeting which took place in conjunction with the March Members' Meeting. These meetings took place in the Mid & East Antrim (M&EA) Borough Councils' Chamber at The Braid Centre in Ballymena and were accessible by Zoom.

The M&EA Deputy Mayor, Cllr Beth Adger MBE personally provided a warm welcome to members that attended the venue, representing Mayor Ald Noel Williams, who was unable to attend due to a prior engagement.

At the start of the meetings Cllr Adger also welcomed members to the Chamber along with those that joined by Zoom.

The Special General Meeting was to request approval from NAC members for amendments to the NAC NI Region Constitution, which were made by the NAC Executive Committee (EC). Members previously agreed that the current Constitution, which has been in use since 2016, required updating and the amended document was prepared during a lengthy process involving several dedicated meetings, seeking legal approval, and approval by the NAC UK General Secretary. The amended Constitution draft was circulated to all NAC Members prior to the Special General Meeting with a link to the current Constitution for comparison purposes.

At the Special General Meeting there was a further change proposed and seconded, the draft amended Constitution was updated accordingly. This document was circulated to all Councils on 22 March, with a request for it to be presented at their next Council meeting(s) and for any comments from members to be provided by 28 April 2023.

If you would like to attend an NAC regional members' meeting or meetings but have not been nominated by your council as a delegate, you can ask to be added to the guest list by sending an email request to office@nac-ni.org.

NAC Workshop Event

The NAC "Leadership & Change in Local Enterprise" Workshop event took place at the Craigavon Civic and Conference Centre on Thursday 23 March 2023.



The NAC NI Chair, *Cllr Terry Andrews* opened the event welcoming attendees, followed by *Cllr Joe Boyle*, the NAC NI Secretary who also addressed the audience and welcomed the speakers:

Steve Pollard Ulster University, *Nichola Wilson* ABCBC, *Alison Allen* NILGA, *Paul McCreedy* MUDC and *Leah Millthorne* CLES.

The programme included a video address from *Maeve Monaghan* Now Group and the NAC Senior Vice Chair, *Ald Alan McDowell*, gave a presentation and held an interactive session. Closing remarks were made by the NAC National President, *Cllr Beth Adger*.

Feedback from the event was positive and a report is being prepared by the event facilitator, *Derek McCallan*, which will be circulated when available.

Councillor Equality

Members of the EC attended a meeting with DfC officials Mr Carleton and Mr Glass on 13 February 2023 at Causeway Exchange.

It was a positive meeting with a timeline provided for the processes that have been put in place for the councillors' review. A further meeting has been offered by the DfC officials to provide updates on this process, this will possibly take place in June 2023.



LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2023
THURSDAY 18 MAY 2023

This being the final NAC Newsletter of this electoral term, the Officers and Executive Committee of the National Association of Councillors send best wishes to all members that will be standing for office again in the upcoming elections and we look forward to engaging with you in the coming months and years.

At recent NAC meetings we heard from some of our longest standing members that have been actively supportive of the NAC over many years and will now be retiring from office.

Ald Jim Speers, Ald Frazer Agnew, Ald Tommy Nicholl and Executive Committee Members **Ald Angus Carson** and **Cllr Dermot Curran**, who has completed 50 years of service as a Councillor, spoke of their experiences and lifetime friendships that have been established through the NAC.

Former NAC Chair, **Ald Tommy Sandford** is also retiring but was unable to attend recent meetings due to ill health, thankfully he is now recovering well.



We thank these members for strengthening the NAC by working alongside the entire family of Councillors and to all members that are retiring, we hope that you enjoy getting used to a 'normal' life again and that you are blessed with continued good health.

We also extend our best wishes to all those who are standing down and we wish you well in whichever path you may take in the future.