



National Association of Councillors Northern Ireland Region Members Newsletter December 2021

Local Government Pension Scheme

A copy of the NILGOSC presentation that was prepared specifically for our members has been circulated to all councillors.



For further information and to view your pension on-line you can visit: <https://nilgosc.org.uk/>

If a councillor would like a projection of their pension benefits without going on-line, they can contact the Pensions Calculations Team at NILGOSC who will be able to provide individual calculations based on that specific councillor's membership.

Councillors will need to provide their pension reference number and they can request a personal calculation by:

Telephoning: 0345 3197325 or by

Emailing: info@nilgosc.org.uk

Covid-19 Grant Funding Criteria

Following a request made at our September Members Meeting for a letter received from the Finance Minister, Mr Conor Murphy MLA to be circulated to our members, we wrote to Minister Murphy seeking his permission. Approval was granted and the letter, which outlined comprehensive details of the various Covid-19 government funding schemes was sent to all councillors last month.

Councillor Abuse Survey

A survey to collate evidence on abuse and intimidation of councillors is being carried out under the [Civility in Public Life Programme](#) which we have highlighted in our recent Newsletters.

Details and a link to the survey which we received from our collaborative partners, NILGA, have been sent to all councillors and we would encourage anyone affected to share details of their experiences.

Northern Ireland Region AGM

This event took place on Friday 15 October 2021 at the Glenavon Hotel in Cookstown with invited guests from NAC UK, NILGA, AILG and LAMA in attendance.

An on-line message from the Communities Minister, Ms Dierdre Hargey, MLA was relayed to attendees and whilst Senator Mark Daly was unable to join us, he provided an interesting overview of his background and work at the Senate of Ireland.

Click here for [Minister Hargey's address](#).

The new Executive Committee (EC) was formed, full details of the new committee are provided on Page 2 of this Newsletter.

Photographs taken at the AGM can be viewed on the [Gallery Page](#) of the NAC website.

In 2018 the NAC created a new award for long serving Councillors with three awards made, in 2020 a further four Councillors received this award and the 2021 Long Service Awards that were presented at the AGM are featured on Page 3 of this Newsletter.

National AGM

At the end of November, the NAC UK held its Annual General Meeting in Lytham St Annes.

New appointments made to the committee include two Northern Ireland EC members, Cllr Charlie Casey who is now the National Chairperson and the National Vice President is now Cllr Beth Adger.

Councillor Equality












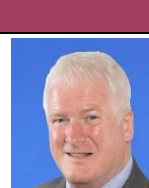
A sub-committee made up of members from the NAC Executive Committee (EC) have now attended two meetings with officials from the DfC to discuss Councillor Equality. There is another meeting scheduled for later this month and the EC feel that this is a positive step towards addressing many concerns that have been raised by our members.



National Association of Councillors Northern Ireland Region Members Newsletter December 2021

NAC Northern Ireland Region Officers and Executive Committee (EC)

At the NAC AGM the new EC was formed with a change of Chair to Cllr Terry Andrews, Senior Vice Chair is now Ald Alan McDowell, Junior Vice Chair is now Cllr Valerie Harte, Women's Representative is Cllr Hazel Legge, and Ald Michael Henderson has subsequently been retained as a Co-opted Committee Member, all other EC members remain unchanged as below.

| | |
|---|--|
|  <p>Chairperson Cllr Terry Andrews</p> |  <p>Secretary Cllr Joe Boyle</p> |
|  <p>Senior Vice Chair Ald Alan McDowell</p> |  <p>Treasurer Ald Angus Carson</p> |
|  <p>Junior Vice Chair Cllr Valerie Harte</p> |  <p>Women's Representative Cllr Hazel Legge</p> |
|  <p>Cllr Billy Webb</p> |  <p>Cllr Beth Adger</p> |
|  <p>Cllr Dermot Curran</p> |  <p>Cllr Charlie Casey</p> |
|  <p>Cllr Robert Burgess</p> |  <p>Co-opted Member Ald Michael Henderson</p> |



Long Serving Councillor Awards

In recent years responsibilities and demands for Councillor's 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.

The NAC in NI feel that long serving Councillors set an example to others and it is important that their dedication and commitment is recognised and celebrated, and at the NAC NI AGM on 15 October 2021 awards were presented to Councillors that have each served for over 32 years.



The NAC NI Chair, Alderman Tommy Sandford made the presentations to:

Ald Derek Hussey,
Derry City & Strabane District Council

Cllr Allan Rainey,
Fermanagh & Omagh District Council

Cllr Trevor Wilson,
Mid Ulster District Council

Cllr Paul McLean,
Mid Ulster District Council



A further two Councillors that were unable to attend the AGM also received this award, they are:

Cllr Sean Clarke,
Fermanagh & Omagh District Council

Cllr Henry Reilly,
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council