



In this our final Newsletter of 2022 the Officers and Executive Committee of the National Association of Councillors send best wishes to all our members and their families for the festive season.



We hope that you have the opportunity to enjoy time with your loved ones over the holidays and that the New Year ahead will bring better times for all.



Please remember that if you have any problem or query relating to your work as a councillor, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us and we will do our best to assist.



National Association of Councillors Northern Ireland Region Members Newsletter December 2022

NAC NI Conference

The '**NAC at 30 years, Defining Our Positive Future**' Conference took place on Tuesday 27 September 2022 at the Glenavon House Hotel, Cookstown.

The event was supported by NILGA; facilitated by their former CE Mr Derek McCallan, with their current CE Ms Alison Allen presenting, and Business Services Officer Sarah Little, running the virtual aspect of the event. There were twenty-four attendees in the room and six joined in on-line.

An Outcomes Report from the Workshops Sessions which was prepared by Mr McCallan has been reviewed by the NAC Executive Committee (EC) and when approved by the NAC NI Membership will form the basis of a Business Plan for moving the organisation forward. The Outcomes Report will be circulated to Members shortly for feedback or validation and then tabled for discussion at the next Members' Meeting.



Photographs from the Conference can be viewed on the [Gallery Page](#) of the NAC website.

National AGM November 2022

At the recent NAC UK AGM and Conference in Carlisle, Cllr Charlie Casey stood down from his position of National Chairperson as he is retiring, and Cllr Beth Adger was appointed as National President.

Letters of thanks and congratulations have been sent to Cllr Casey and Cllr Adger by the NAC Secretary, Cllr Joe Boyle on behalf of the NAC NI Region.

Northern Ireland Region AGM

The NAC AGM took place on Friday 21 October at the Glenavon House Hotel, there was a good turn-out with over forty people in the room plus seven on-line attendees. Guests attended from NAC UK, NILGA, AILG and LAMA plus Mr Anthony Carleton and Mr Jeff Glass from the DfC who were there on behalf of Minister Hargey.

Following the selections and nominations the EC remains the same for this year, apart from a change in the Women's Representative, which rotates by party annually, and this is now Cllr Alison Bennington.

NAC Long Service Awards for 29 years of service were presented to five Members who were in attendance – Ald Alan McDowell, Ald Jim Rodgers, Ald Norman Hillis, Ald Tom McKeown, and Ald Allan Bresland, a further award for Ald Kenneth Twyble was sent on to his council to pass on as he was unable to attend, further details on Page 3 of this Newsletter.

Councillor Equality

The EC have requested a meeting with the DfC Officials to discuss the process for the review of the roles and responsibilities of councillors; the last meeting which was scheduled for 8 August 2022 was postponed by their office.

The NAC EC understand that with the NI Assembly suspended there are aspects of the review, due to legislative nature, which may not be able to move forward. However, they are seeking to clarify if action can be taken by the Department on some of the issues that councillors have asked the NAC to address in terms of equality.

Members Meeting Dates for 2023

These are being scheduled for Wednesdays ~
*25 January, 15 March, 17 May, 19 July,
20 September and 22 November.*

Further details and venues will be advised soon.



Long Serving Councillor Awards

The NAC Long Service Awards were created to honour Councillors for many years of dedicated work in supporting others and their outstanding contribution to public and community service.

This year at the NAC NI AGM on 21 October 2022 the awards were presented Councillors that have each served for over 29 years.



The NAC NI Chair, Cllr Terry Andrews made the presentations to:

Alderman Alan McDowell
Ards & North Down Borough Council

Alderman Jim Rodgers
Belfast City Council

Alderman Tom McKeown
Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council

Ald Norman Hillis
Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council

Ald Allan Bresland
Derry City & Strabane District Council



The award for **Alderman Kenneth Twyble** of Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council was sent on to his council to pass on as he was unable to attend the AGM.