



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

Welcome All

The Executive Committee (EC) of the National Association of Councillors, Northern Ireland Region (NAC), congratulate those of you that have been re-elected for the new term of office, and extend a warm welcome to all newly elected members.

Meetings Update

The EC have had meetings on the 5 June and the 3 July 2023.

Due to the elections, there are now a reduced number of members but all vacancies will be filled at the NAC AGM in October. Cllr Billy Webb is now interim Treasurer following the retirement of the former Treasurer, Angus Carson.

The first NAC NI Members' Meeting of this new term took place in Newry Conference Centre on Wednesday 19 July 2023. This meeting had to be held on an in-person basis due to a late change of venue. The Chair of Newry, Mourne & Down District Council, Cllr Valerie Harte provided a warm welcome to the NAC delegates in attendance, she explained that they currently don't have a chamber available for meetings due to work being carried out.



The next meeting will be hosted by Derry City & Strabane District Council and will take place in the *Guildhall in Londonderry* on *Wednesday 20 September 2023*, and we hope that this can be carried out in hybrid format using the council facilities.

If you are an NAC delegate, hopefully you can attend.

Non-delegates are also welcome to come along, please send an email request to office@nac-ni.org if you would like to attend.

NAC NI Constitution

Changes have been made to the current Constitution to update it and the draft revised Constitution which was drawn up by the EC was approved by members on 15 March. Two councils have written to the NAC and the points raised are being addressed by the EC with a view to having the updated Constitution approved and implemented at the NAC AGM in October 2023.

Councillor Equality

The Department for Communities (DfC) are currently recruiting for a Chair to head up the review panel and details of this were circulated to all our members on 12 July 2023. The time frame for this process is running on course, which is very positive.

Save the Date!

The NAC Annual General Meeting (AGM) has been arranged as follows:

10.30am to 1.30pm
Friday 20 October 2023
The Glenavon House Hotel
Drum Road Cookstown

Further details will be circulated soon. For all meeting dates and venues visit the Meetings Page of the NAC NI Website>>

<http://www.nac-ni.org/meetings.htm>

Farewell to Kate

NAC's Admin Assistant, Kate Wilson is retiring in August. Kate has worked for the NAC since April 2018, and we wish her well for the future. We are currently recruiting for a replacement.





INFORMATION

This being the first NAC NI Newsletter of this electoral term, the Officers and Executive Committee of the National Association of Councillors welcome all members and we look forward to engaging with you in the coming months and years.

The NAC is run by elected members across the four regions of the UK. The NI Region was formed over 30 years ago and we aim to assist our members by providing information and advice that will help them when working within their communities and for carrying out the roles they may hold within their councils.

CLAIMS FOR EXPENSES FROM HMRC

We would like to take this opportunity to inform you that tax deductions can be claimed from the HMRC in relation to expenses incurred for carrying out duties as a Councillor.

For details please click the link below to read the NAC Guidance Sheet which contains information and has links to the HMRC website for further details:

http://www.nac-ni.org/index_html_files/HMRC%20claim%20guidelines%202018.pdf

Other information that may be useful to you can be viewed through the NAC Website by clicking the link below:

[NAC NI Information Page](#)