



Members' Meetings Information

The National Association of Councillors (NAC) provides an All-Party voice on matters that are relevant to the Councillor role.

We have just held our March meeting virtually by Zoom, our next one is scheduled for Wednesday 19 May 2021 and we invite you to join us at this and our future bi-monthly meetings – whether virtually or in-person.

All 462 Councillors in Northern Ireland are Members of the NAC and our Members' Meetings provide a great opportunity to hear first-hand from fellow Councillors across the region and to join in discussions on topics that matter to us all.

Further details and the Minutes of our previous meetings are on the Meetings Page of our website and can be accessed by clicking the image below –



Meetings

All Council appointed Members' Delegates are sent invites to our upcoming meetings. If you are not a Delegate but would like to join in, please send an email request to attend to:

naoc@btconnect.com

See over for our latest updates and we look forward to seeing you at our next Members' Meeting – *as together we are stronger.*

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



Activities Update

NAC Executive Committee

Since our last Members' Meeting, the NAC Executive Committee (EC) met on the 1st of February and March 2021 by Zoom.

We have 12 Members on the Committee and we invite a guest representative from NILGA to participate to further strengthen the positive working relationship that our organisations have established through working on matters of common interest. Currently the NILGA representative is Ms Fiona Douglas.

For further details of the NAC's Structure and our EC Members, see the About Us page on our Website by [clicking here>>](#)

Councillor Equality

The NAC EC had a very informative meeting with the Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) Officers on 8 February to discuss their allowance review journey and the positive outcome from this for Councillors in the South of Ireland.

The NAC EC made a presentation by Zoom to the Department for Communities (DfC) Minister's Officials on 23 February 2021. They have informed us that they will summarise and respond to the points that we raised on Councillor Equality on behalf of our Members and, following our agreement this information will then be presented by them to Minister Hargey MLA.

We also sent our presentation to the Clerk to the NI Assembly Communities Committee, and she has agreed to put this forward to the Committee for their consideration.

The presentations included details of the problems and issues that our Members are facing and have raised with us.

Partnership Panel

An invitation has been received for an NAC Representative to attend the next Partnership Panel Meeting taking place on 21 April 2021 as an observer.

HMRC Working from Home Allowances

Following discussion by our EC, the fact that this allowance has not been updated for many years was raised and discussed at the January NAC UK Executive Meeting by Cllr Casey and Ald Sandford. At this meeting the NAC General Secretary, Cllr Brian Nelson said that he would address this with Councils and HMRC.

We have written to Cllr Nelson to thank him and advise him of our support of his initiative to approach Councils and HMRC on this matter.

Local Government Training Group (LGTG)

NAC representatives attended a meeting on 16 February in relation to the LGTG review. The appointed consultants iESE provided a presentation with proposals put forward for future training within Local Government. Following this we received an outcome report which was discussed by the EC and a response to this was submitted to iESE in conjunction with NILGA.

The framework for Local Government Training will be established from this work which is on-going, and the NAC will continue to provide input to the panel in relation to Councillors views and training needs.



...AND PLEASE STAY POSITIVE !



Useful Links



[Councillors Allowances from April 2020 – Updated March 2021](#)

[HMRC Tax Guidance for Councillors](#)

[NILGA Councillors' Guide](#)

[Councillors' Code of Conduct](#)

[Guidance on Code of Conduct](#)

Coronavirus Information

There are various sources of information and advice available in relation to COVID-19 and we have added some useful website links below that can be accessed by clicking on the logos or copying the links below into your web browser.



<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/news/are-you-eligible-vaccine-northern-ireland-check-you-book>



<https://www.adviceni.net/coronavirus>



<https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/campaign/coronavirus-updates-support-your-business>



<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/coronavirus-covid-19>



<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/>