



Activities Update

Councillor Equality

Members of the NAC Executive Committee (EC) attended a further meeting with the DfC officials on 12th August 2021.

At this meeting some of the matters that have been raised by the NAC were commented on, and the EC were asked to select a sub-committee to attend a series of regular meetings with one topic for discussion at each meeting. Subsequently a sub-committee has been formed and four meetings have been scheduled to take place before the end of this year.

We will keep our members informed of progress on this matter.

Local Government Pension Scheme

The NAC ran an Information Session on the Local Government Pension Scheme which took place following the last Members' Meeting held on 15 September 2021.

Ruth Benson from the NILGOSC delivered a very informative presentation with details of the Local Government Pension Scheme for Councillors and she included an explanation of the Annual Statement.

A copy of the NILGOSC presentation can be downloaded from our website by [clicking here>>](#)

Social Enterprise NI Awards

The NAC NI are delighted to support the SENI Gala Awards 2021 by providing sponsorship for this prestigious event which celebrates the success of the social enterprise sector over the past year.

This will be the third year that we have been involved having previously sponsored the event in 2018 and 2019 (last year's event was cancelled due to COVID-19).

To find out more about SENI and their Gala Awards please visit their website>> <https://www.socialenterpriseni.org/>

Covid-19 Grant Funding

At the last NAC Members meeting the fairness of funding allocations made was raised and a decision was taken for the NAC to write to the appropriate government department(s) asking for a review of the criteria that they used for COVID-19 funding applications received from businesses and organisations. Accordingly, we wrote to the Finance Minister Conor Murphy MLA and to the Economy Minister Gordon Lyons MLA.

We received a very comprehensive reply from Minister Murphy which included details of all the schemes provided by his department and advising that unsuccessful applicants can address a ruling if they feel it was not fair.

This letter was read out at our Members' Meeting in September and Minister Murphy has given us permission to share this with all our members, the letter will be forwarded in due course.

NAC UK Conference

At the beginning of October, the NAC UK held its first conference since February 2020 in Carlisle.

The NAC General Secretary, Cllr Brian Nelson welcomed members of the NAC NI Executive Committee who travelled to take part in the event which examined the governments 'levelling up' agenda. The speakers included local authority officers, elected members as well as those representing organisations tackling the many challenges of providing services in the post-covid era.

Community Information

See overleaf for links to websites that provide community information, services, and funding opportunities.



National Association of Councillors Northern Ireland Region Members' Newsletter October 2021

Information

In the last NAC Newsletter, we published details of a campaign that is being run by Community Calling which is a volunteer-led initiative formed in 2020 in response to the pandemic and using technology to connect community members across Northern Ireland with providers of support.

There are many other organisations that provide information, services, and funding opportunities for communities across Northern Ireland, we have provided links below to some of these for your information.



<https://www.communityni.org/>



<https://communitycalling.ltd/>

GrantsOnline

<https://www.grantsonline.org.uk/region-news/northern-ireland/?category=>



<https://www.groundwork.org.uk/hubs/northernireland/>



<https://www.nicva.org/>



<https://supportingcommunities.org/>



<https://communityfoundationni.org/>