

REVIEW OF THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF COUNCILLORS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

The Department for Communities will be undertaking an independently led review of the roles and responsibilities of councillors in Northern Ireland.

Mr. Maynard Mawhinney has been appointed as the independent chair of the review, with effect from 1 December 2023, for a period of six months.

The review will make recommendations on:

The system and level of allowances which would be available to councillors taking into consideration the role and responsibilities of councillors since April 2015 and schemes of remuneration for councillors in other jurisdictions in Britain and Ireland. This will include:

- Allowances (basic, attendance and special responsibility)
- Chair & vice chair allowances
- Dependants' carers' allowance
- Pension scheme
- Severance scheme
- Travel & Subsistence
- Maternity/Paternity and Long-Term Sickness
- Range of members services and support

A working group will be appointed to take forward the review and the proposed membership will be as follows:

- Independent chair
- NAC representative
- NILGA representative
- NICVA representative
- ICTU representative
- NI Chamber of Commerce representative
- Independent member
- DfC Official

The Department for Communities is now seeking one nomination from the NAC for a member to join the working group. It is expected that the working group will meet 2-3 times per month over the next six months.

At the Executive Committee Meeting held in December 2023, the Secretary, Cllr Boyle expressed an interest in representing NAC on this working group but equally opened this discussion to the EC committee. After some discussion it was agreed by everyone that they DfC would be informed that Councillor Boyle would be the choice going forward to represent the NAC on the working group.