



## Members' Newsletter February 2019

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**GDPR Registrations** In January 2019 we emailed all councillors reminding them that the Data Protection fee is annual and we included some links for getting further information and registering. We received nine responses to this email, some councillors requested assistance with the registration process, which we provided. We have urged all councillors to ensure that they register as fines have already been made for non-registration by the Information Commissioners Office.

**Members Meetings' Date changes** Following discussion at the last Members' Meeting, the NAC EC have agreed that we will now hold a Members Meeting in November rather than December. It was felt that the December meeting was too close to Christmas and this will also shorten the gap from the previous Members' Meeting which takes place in August.

**Friends of the Earth (FOE) request for NILGOSC to divest from fossil fuels** Following receipt of the presentation and electronic documents from FOE in January, we circulated these along with the NILGOSC's statement to all councillors.

**NAC UK Events** Event details received by NAC are now being circulated by us to councils, as well as to all councillors. Recent presentations made at NAC UK Conferences are available on our website.

**NILGA Info on 'Purdah'** Information and guidance on this was sent by NILGA to their EC, and following discussion by the NAC EC, this information was circulated to all councillors during January.

**LGTG Review Meeting** This meeting, which was scheduled for 10 January. was cancelled. A new meeting date has not yet been advised.

**NAC/LAMA meeting** A joint meeting took place on Friday 25 January 2019 in Banbridge Civic Centre with 4 NAC EC Officers and 7 LAMA Officer Board Members in attendance. The meeting was very positive with the delegates exchanging information on their organisations and what they have been working on. LAMA have invited all NAC EC members to attend their Spring Conference which is taking place in Carrick-on-Shannon on Thursday 7th March and they have requested that a presentation on NAC is delivered to their delegates.



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**Social Enterprise Conference** This took place on Thursday 31 Jan 2019 and details of the event were circulated to all councillors in advance. The NAC Secretary, Cllr Joe Boyle attended and said it was a very worthwhile event and he met Sue Gray, Permanent Secretary of Dept of Finance, who was one of the presenters at the event.

**Councillor Equality** We received some media coverage during late December and further press articles were published in the Irish News during January and the story was broadcast on Radio Ulster's Nolan Show. Overall, it was felt that the coverage given has been more positive than negative.

We followed up in December and again in January with John Kelpie on his agreement to discuss the councillor equality matter with SOLACE members. We have been advised this will be discussed at the February meeting of SOLACE, and we will be updated following that.

**Code of Conduct Review** A letter was received by the NAC Chairman from the Chief Executive of Lisburn City & Castlereagh Council expressing the Councils' support for the NAC with their appeal for a review of the Code of Conduct, a thank you letter has been sent.

**NILGA's Local Government Awards** These will be put back due to the elections in May with entries and judging now taking place from June. The Awards Ceremony is to be held in February 2020.

**SRA Allocation Distribution** This information was requested and received from all councils. A summary of the responses was discussed at the February Members' Meeting.

**The next NAC NI Members' Meeting** will be hosted by Lisburn City & Castlereagh Council and will take place at the Civic Centre, Lagan Valley Island, Lisburn BT27 4RL on Wednesday 17 April 2019 at 11:00am.

We hope to have a guest speaker in attendance at this meeting and further details will be published in advance on the [NAC NI Region Website](#).

All Councillors are welcome to attend but only official Council Delegates can vote or make decisions.