



LOCAL Jobs and People First!

Growth Through Councils and LOCAL Economies

NILGA speaks up for local government and offers modern, effective and accountable representation and services. We are led by, and accountable to, the 26 district councils.

Annual Report
2012-2013

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NILGA OFFICE BEARERS



Councillor Evelyne Robinson MBE



Alderman Arnold Hatch



**Councillor Seán McPeake
(President)**

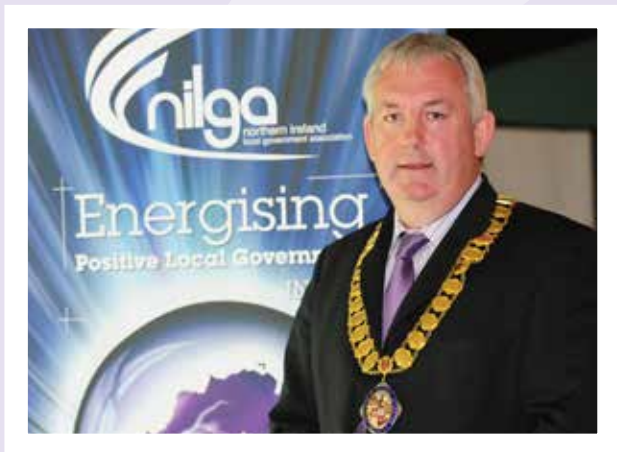


Councillor Dermot Curran



Alderman Tom Ekin

Foreword by NILGA's President



This, the twelfth Annual Report of the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA), summarises a year of hard work and significant achievement. Undoubtedly, the sector continued to be challenged by the processes and developments within the Local Government Reform programme. NILGA's timely interventions throughout the year have shown its regional strength and abilities as the representative voice of local government. During 2012/13, NILGA's pursuit of strong local government gained further results - with legislative change, successful negotiations on resources and investment in our sector, policy and operational input into the myriad of processes and structures within Reform and other programmes of work, recognition locally, regionally, nationally and internationally for our work, leading to clear, positive gains for local government – every one of them **hard earned** and **fully deserved**. The Northern Ireland Assembly at last offered a £47 million fund to support, at least in part, Local Government Reform. A Political Partnership Panel – ensuring formal representation at regional level for elected members in councils – will emerge from the Local Government Bill.

NILGA's presentation of evidence at nine Assembly Committees successfully put councils' key issues across. The 26 councils – our membership – endorsed NILGA's first Corporate Plan, for the period September 2012 – March 2016. It is important to restate the clear yet resonant Mission Statement within it:

“NILGA speaks up for local government and offers modern, effective and accountable representation and services. We are led by, and accountable to, the 26 district councils.”

We responded to no less than 32 consultations, holding 34 events and workshops on critical issues affecting councils, including Capacity Building for elected members, planning, migration, waste management, the economy and local government reform – to name but a few. NILGA's results, hard work and cost effective structure paid dividends and gained great recognition in 2012/13. We brought over £2.5 million directly into the sector, an excellent return on councils' investment.

Sincere thanks are offered for the commitment, insight and support of my fellow **office bearers**, who once again worked as a unified and dynamic team. Similarly, **NILGA's Executive** provided scrutiny and corporate direction for the Association and drove key decisions, as a cohesive and strong representative body, with much unanimity and little acrimony. Our **Full Members**, offering informative guidance, strong support and attendance, including at our February Conference in the 2013 City of Culture, are commended for their clear commitment to NILGA, and to local government more widely.

My thanks are due also to each and every one of the **Chairs and members of our Working Groups – Waste, Health & Environment, Modernisation, European Union / Local Economies, Agriculture & Rural Development, and Planning**, together with our partners from the executive of the **National Association of Councillors (NAC)**.

I thank also the **Chief Executives of councils, SOLACE** and the diverse and willing group of **senior officers** from right across local government, for contributing fully to the regional, strategic, long term policies and practices of NILGA.

Thanks to the **sponsors** of our key initiatives and events, including Translink for **Ulster in Bloom** and Invest NI and the Post Office for Conference 2013, together with judges, advisors and support teams of these organisations.

Colleagues in **government departments** and the NI Assembly, from Ministers to officials, also gain my appreciation for recognising the growing importance of local government in improving political representation and the provision of public services in NI. In particular, I am grateful for the commitment shown by colleagues in the **Department of the Environment (DoE)** – Local Government, Planning, Legislation and Environment divisions, and know that in the period ahead this strong relationship must continue to be based on partnership, trust and openness.

Like all of my predecessors, and indeed successors, I am grateful, finally, to the NILGA **staff**, at all levels, for their professional work, dedication and sense of humour – good humoured politics and politicians do exist, at least, in NILGA!

The 2012/13 Annual Report reminds all of us that NILGA ensures that local government in Northern Ireland must be developed, sustained, represented and recognised for its many, great qualities. The Association delivers innovative, practical and sustainable policies and positions for and with councils within our sector. We also are clearly making impact throughout government, the public service, the community, voluntary and private sectors, political parties, the media and wider society. That will continue, as local government would expect no less from NILGA.

As President, I look forward to the future of NILGA with total confidence. I commend this Annual Report to you - the members and supporters of the Northern Ireland Local Government Association and take strength from our collective ambition and performance. We are, indeed, stronger together.



Councillor Seán McPeake
President, Northern Ireland Local
Government Association (NILGA)

Chief Executive's Commentary



NILGA's strategic vision and its capacity for sustained hard work was very evident in 2012/13, and produced successful results across **all** of its corporate and work plan commitments in the Report period.

The officer team and its resources

worked assiduously, guided and directed at all times by NILGA's **councillor leadership and council membership**.

NILGA in 2012/13 delivered all of our key performance targets on time, maintained a lean but responsive staff complement, gained new partners in the private and public sectors, kept our subscriptions frozen for the third year in succession and provided products and representation of the highest quality.

The Association represented and delivered for NI local government at 300 plus events, presentations and workshops, primarily across Northern Ireland of course, but also in Cardiff, London, Dublin, Edinburgh, Manchester and Brussels. It produced key information bulletins on average two every month, benefitting not just our councillors and councils, but also at Ministers, other policy makers, political parties and the media. It spearheaded modernisation work, getting to grips with concrete matters such as improving the proposed planning regime to get a better economy and environment, reducing wasteful processes and targeting resources far better in terms of existing and proposed European funds - an investment of hundreds of millions of pounds still creaking under many necessary and just as many unnecessary criteria, processes and structures. We developed training and greater corporate knowledge for our elected members, through the Charter for Local Development.

NILGA engaged fully with all 12 government departments on negotiations and representations as diverse as Waste Management, unadopted roads, migration, our local economies, localism and policing / community safety partnerships, and fought for and gained investment – some £47 million – for Local Government Reform. The Association ensured that political representation on regional bodies such as the Waste Programme Board, the EU Consultative Partnership Group, the

Local Government Reform Programme (through the Regional Transition Committee) and many more was reflective of both **regional** and local insight, was fully inclusive, in keeping at all times with the best interests of local government.

During 2012/13, NILGA completed work on and launched its first Corporate Plan, covering the period September 2012 to March 2016. This Plan is aligned to the most difficult period local government in Northern Ireland has faced since 1972. **However, such difficulties will be overcome**, and local government being sustained and recognised as a real partner in government was in 2012/13 (and will remain) **a cornerstone of NILGA's work.**

A "NILGA gain", as we say in the Association, is anything which results in investment in our sector, improvement & development of councils, and the proper recognition of local authorities as democratic & efficient bodies. Thankfully, 2012/13 was another year of gains, amidst the immense frustration, delays, austerity, and administrative constipation which tried the patience of politicians and officials alike.

During 2012/13, NILGA realised a full work plan, on behalf of its 26 council membership, within the above mentioned Corporate Plan. It instigated - or retained with improvements - its contracts with DoE (Waste, Reform), DFP (Finance), the former UK Border Agency and OFMDFM (NI Strategic Migration Partnership), Translink / Northern Ireland Tourist Board (Ulster in Bloom) and Invest NI (Conference / local economic initiatives). Throughout 2012/13, on no less than 46 occasions, it formally challenged – with evidence and solutions – central government, with sensible outcomes for councils, including investment in Reform (DoE), welfare of animals (DARD), Structural Funds (DFP, DETI et al), and political partnership for councils and council representative bodies (OFMDFM, DoE and related scrutiny committees).

NILGA continued its co-ordination and support for the Improvement, Collaboration and Efficiency Programme (I.C.E.), providing a full secretariat service together with communication bulletins to all members, relevant government departments and committees. Similarly, it represented councils on matters such as EU regulations, transnational work by councils within the Committee of the Regions (CoR) and the Council for European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), electoral reform, workforce development, waste management and localism. NILGA represented through councillors and officer support the best interests of Northern Ireland's councils, bringing investment into councils and communities: for example, for community planning training, initially to Ballymena Borough through the Skills for

Justice programme, and signalling opportunities such as Post Office shared services with councils in deprived urban and peripheral rural council areas. Whilst an Annual Report by necessity looks back, let us at the same time look forward. It is important to dwell just for a moment on **why** NILGA does what it does and needs to keep on doing.

Local government is an essential part of democracy and public service provision in Northern Ireland and its potential is threatened by territorialism, an absence of real devolution, a lack of trust, a need to communicate better, a need to fully challenge ourselves and to develop ourselves, amidst a heavy, legally and politically complex working environment. Local government is necessary, must be sustained, must exhibit real unity and cohesion, must celebrate its successes and must not fragment at this turning point in its future.

NILGA provides regional policy, communication, knowledge, representation and development, so that our sector is offered and in turn provides - cost effective, democratic, visionary, ever more efficient well governed institutions.

NILGA, on behalf of local government in Northern Ireland, will develop a sustainable future, needs to be less self-effacing and needs to speak up for its strengths. Councils require recognition and negotiation platforms within other tiers of government as a partner of choice, an enabler of solutions, and a vibrant and contemporary alternative to the painful over administration suffered by citizens for decades.

During the period of this Annual Report, NILGA's customer service to councils and councillors was recognised on scores of occasions, but such testimonials are only the gloss on the quiet efficiency for which the Association is now noted.

Sustainable local government will only be provided by constructively challenging ourselves and others at all times, and NILGA will continue to do this day and daily for the councils we are proud to serve.

Thank you for your valued input into the Northern Ireland Local Government Association.



Derek McCallan
Chief Executive, Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA)

Examples of NILGA Key Achievements 2012/2013

- Financial investment for Local Government Reform
- Membership of NILGA and investment of all 26 councils in NI's regional voice of local government
- Maintenance of the Resource Grant for 18 of NI's 26 councils worth £1.18 million
- Local Government Reform, NILGA's regional role - substantial communication and liaison with Councils, regular reform communications for Elected Members and input into the Regional Transition Committee (RTC), Regional Transition Operating Board (RTOB) and regional working groups
- Support for I.C.E., the Improvement, Collaboration and Efficiency programme – NILGA secretariat / resources, regional communication and governance, support for initiatives including joint advertising and shared services as appropriate
- EU Partnership with SOLACE and government departments produces new and integrated propositions / thinking around future spend - greater voice of councils in policy, implementation and management of Structural Funds
- NI Strategic Migration Partnership launched and work commenced to ensure community planning will benefit from a regional approach to planned economic migration
- Planning - focus on capacity building through working in partnership
- Waste - focus on contributing to review of waste policy, strategy and governance
- Workforce - two councils have completed the Charter for Elected Member Development (Belfast and Strabane) with two clusters to complete the process in 2013/14. Successful lobbying by CEEP convinced the European Commission to drop proposals for further, fresh and unnecessary rules around occupational pension schemes which would have cost employers in the UK (including councils here) close to £750 billion
- Development of legislation and propositions to strengthen councils' roles in community planning, and develop a Political Partnership Panel as part of formal two tier negotiations between all parts of government, through the Draft Local Government Reform Bill
- New investment and partnership opportunities brought to the sector including European Investment Bank and Post Office
- Formal policies, positions and solutions put to FM / DFM, all political parties, local government associations in Britain and Europe, x3 MEPs, cross party MP's group in London, Association of City and County Councils in Rol, 5 NI Assembly Committees and six Ministers
- Annual Plan presentations, Business Plan 2012/13 and over 30 consultations provided to (and with contributions from) all 26 councils, in addition to ongoing consultations on Waste, Planning and Reform.

Performance Report A - developing local government policy and influencing central government

(A) NILGA Full Meetings

During the year, five Full Members' meetings were held for the 154 elected councillors and the 25 CEOs who represent their councils on the Association. These meetings focused on key policy issues which enabled strategic local government debate and resolutions which assisted

the Association's work greatly on behalf of its membership.

Full Members, at the Association's Annual General Meeting in September 2012, endorsed unanimously the Corporate Plan, NILGA's first, for 2012 – 2016.

Sector consultation and information events held as part of Full Members meetings.

Date	Event
May 2012	Renewable Energy and Planning
September 2012	Local Government reform – Refreshing the Vision
November 2012	Recast Waste Strategy
January 2013	European Union / Local economic development
January 2013	Community Planning
March 2013	The Future of Social Housing

(B) NILGA Executive Meetings

The NILGA Executive Committee met 10 times in 2012/13 to provide governance, direction and authority for the work of the Association. These meetings provided an opportunity to discuss critical policy issues and reports from working groups and to consider responses to government consultations and requests for evidence from Assembly Committees. Much work was approved after serious analysis and vigorous debate regarding local government reform, but a consistent message, too, was the need to present as a regional voice the many pressures on resources, services and representation faced by councils and their elected members. The Executive considered over 32 priority consultations ranging from Welfare Reform to Business Improvement Districts, from statutory waste targets to farm safety – every one crucial to the constituents which councils serve and councillors represent.



NILGA Full Members meeting, September 2012, Lissanoure Castle, Ballymoney. Pictured with DoE Minister Alex Attwood, are l-r, NILGA Office Bearers, Ald Arnold Hatch, Cllr Alan Lawther, Cllr Evelyne Robinson MBE, Cllr Seán McPeake and Cllr Dermot Curran.

(C) Working with the Assembly

The professional relationship between NILGA and the Northern Ireland Assembly has continued to build and develop, particularly with the Environment Committee. NILGA has also increased in significance as a stakeholder with the Regional Development Committee, the Social Development Committee and was identified as a key stakeholder by the Assembly Review Committee.

The Association has responded to a number of calls for evidence, both oral and written, including:

Committee	Evidence
Regional Development Committee	Unadopted roads (2)
Culture Arts and Leisure Committee	Creative Industries
Social Development Committee	Business Improvement Districts Bill
Social Development Committee	Charities Bill
Private Members Bill	Numbering of Individual Properties within Townlands
Social Development Committee	Welfare Reform
Assembly Review Committee	Assembly Review and the number of government departments
DoE Committee	Planning Bill
Agriculture and Rural Development Committee	NI Rural Development Programme 2007 – 2013 & 2014 – 2020, Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)
Committee for the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM)	Role of local government as a partner in delivering EU funds 2007 – 2013 and 2014 - 2020

(D) Productive relationships with the Environment Committee

Two meetings with the Chair and two meetings with the Committee focused on improving the road map for and delivery of Local Government Reform and the Waste Strategy / environmental impacts / management, attendance by the Environment Committee at a full session of the NILGA Conference 2013.

(E) Constructive working with government departments – a joined-up approach

Government recognition of NILGA continued to build over the past year, in its role as a representative body for councils and as a key participant in the development of government policy.



Launch of the Strategic Migration Partnership report into the patterns of migrant labour deployment within Northern Ireland. Pictured l-r, Dr Stephen Farry, Employment and Learning Minister, Sarah Lynn, NILGA, Ken Fraser, OFMDFM and Ald PJ McAvoy, Mayor, Ballymena Borough Council.

Meetings with Ministers / Party Leaders

Date	Department	Minister Presiding / Party Leader	Topic
April 2012	DoE	Alex Attwood	I.C.E. Programme
Various	DoE	Alex Attwood	8 x Regional Transition Committee meetings
Various	DoE	Alex Attwood	4 x Waste Programme Board meetings
Various	DoE	Alex Attwood	3 x Planning Forum meetings
June 2012	UUP	Mike Nesbitt	Powers of Local Government
August 2012	DoE	Alex Attwood	Local Government Reform
September 2012	OFMDFM	Martin McGuinness DFM	Local Government Reform, partnership and investment
October 2012	DFP	Sammy Wilson	EU Investment Bank, Rates Convergence, Investment in Local Government Reform
November 2012	DSD	Nelson McCausland	Neighbourhood Renewal Forum

Examples of partnership working with Central Government Departments

Department	Policies constructed with Local Government
OFMDFM	Sustainable Development EU NISMP
Department for Regional Development	Unadopted Roads Transfer of Functions Active Travel Strategy Winter Maintenance
Department of Environment	Local Government Reform Planning Reform and Transfer Waste Management Climate Change Built Heritage Tackling Environmental Crime Biodiversity Secondment of Claire Bradley to DOE Local Government Division
Department of Finance and Personnel	Local government finance and financial tools Building control regulations EU
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment	Transferring functions Local economic development
Department of Culture Arts and Leisure	Transferring functions Olympics 2012 World Police and Fire Games – planning
Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	Rural Development Welfare of Animals
Department for Social Development	Transferring functions Welfare Reform Future of Social Housing Government Advice and Information Group Joint Government / Voluntary and Community Sector Forum NISMP
Department of Justice	Policing NISMP
Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety	Public Health Transforming Your Care NISMP
Department of Education	Community use of school premises NISMP
Department of Employment and Learning	NISMP

Examples of key partnerships with other organisations

Organisation / body	Focus
NAC	Regular meetings with NILGA Office Bearers, joined up approach to elected member training
NI Housing Council	Policy input and joined up working on reform of social housing
Royal Town Planning Institute	Partnership working on capacity building for planning
Chartered Institution of Waste Management and Institution of Civil Engineers	Development of policy relationship on waste management and climate change
Climate NI	Membership of steering group and delivered joint engagement events
Sustainable NI	SNI based in NILGA office, development of partnership working
Consumer Council	Development of policy relationship e.g. Fuel Poverty
TIDY NI	Development of policy relationship and joint working e.g. Blue Flag beaches

(F) Consultation responses

There has been invaluable advice and assistance from many chief and specialist officers within local government – this has been instrumental in developing council wide, regional policy positions on a huge variety of vital issues affecting our sector.

Since much legislation is now devolved, there are many opportunities to input into the different stages of the policy and legislation process, resulting in multiple consultations on the same piece of legislation, e.g. initial policy proposals, draft legislation/strategy, written assembly evidence, oral assembly evidence. NILGA has simplified and made more effective this process for its Members.

The increasing workload during 2012 / 13 has focused attention on the avoidance of duplication, together with utilising stronger relationships, particularly with SOLACE and the professional officer groups, so that the local government 'voice' is well articulated in our workings with government.

Members and staff of NILGA pay tribute to the invaluable advice and assistance from the many specialist officers within local government in 2012/13 who have been instrumental in developing regional policy positions on a wide variety of issues, and who have participated fully in our frequent meetings with Departments / Assembly Committees.

NILGA will continue to push for a properly designed, planned and implemented consultations protocol to ensure, as per the *New Burdens Doctrine* in other jurisdictions, that costly over-administration and consultation fatigue are replaced by an integrated and mutually beneficial system.



Agriculture Minister, Michelle O'Neill MLA held a meeting with representatives from NILGA to discuss a range of issues including; the vaccination of badgers and testing of deer, establishment of a Groceries Code Adjudicator, farm inspection issues, Farm Safety, Review of Public Administration and the new Rural Development Programme. The Minister is pictured with Dr Ken Bishop, Cllr Paul Robinson, Ald Anne Wilson, Cllr Sean Clarke and Cllr Patsy Toman (June 2013).



Derek McCallan with Finance Minister Sammy Wilson at the CIPFA conference (August 2012).

NILGA responded to the following key and formal consultations between April 2012 and March 2013:

DSD Facing the Future: Housing Strategy for Northern Ireland. 2012-2017	Consolidating and updating the Provision of Health Services to Persons Not Ordinarily Resident Regulations	Review of the Magistrates' Courts and County Court Appeals (Criminal Legal Aid) (Costs) Rules (Northern Ireland) 2009 (The Rules)	Amending the Waste Regulations (NI) 2011 on the separate collection of recycling
Amendments to the Energy performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) regulations (NI) 2008	Proposed amendments to the gas (applications for licences and extensions) regulations (Northern Ireland) 1996	DSD/SSA Maximising Incomes and Outcomes-A Plan for improving the Uptake of Benefits	NI Executive: Welfare Reform: Rate Rebate Replacement Arrangements - Preliminary
Employment Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006	Consultation on the Draft Rural Action Plan	DHSSPS Reform of Adult Care and Support	Provision of Discretionary Support 2013
Proposed changes to the Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation (NIRO)	Consultation on revising the Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy	Draft code of practice on the exercise of functions by PCSPs and the DPCSPs	Review of TUPE 2006
Future railway Investment	DARD draft strategic plan	DENI Priorities for Youth	Welfare Reform
Towards a Childcare Strategy	Building Regulations Prescribed fees	Call for Evidence on Community Engagement and Benefits	Department of Energy and Climate Change
Proposed changes to the law regulating the sale and supply of alcohol	Fit and Well – 10 year Public Health Strategic framework	Review of Local Government Staff Commission	Urban regeneration and community development policy framework
Review of NIEA Regulatory Charging Policy 2010-2013 and proposals for 2013-2016	Fundamental Review of regulation of Houses in Multiple Occupation in NI	Revision of the Guidelines on State Aid to support SME access to risk capital	Future regulation of the Private Security Industry

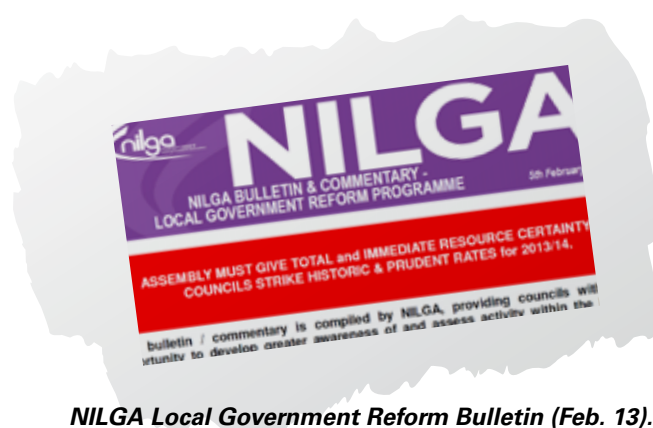
(32 in total).

Sector Consultation and Policy Events (majority attracting external funding without cost to the sector)

Date	Topic
July 2012	Sustainable Development event for officers (with OFMDFM)
September 2012	Climate Change Seminar (with Climate NI)
September 2012	Planning (with Royal Town Planning Institute)
September 2012	Fit and Well (with Public Health Agency)
September 2012	Wind farm site visit (with Northern Ireland Renewables Industry Group)
October 2012	Welfare reform (with DSD)
December 2012	Capacity Building Event - Planning (with NAC)
January 2013	Capacity Building Event - Planning (with NAC)
January 2013	EU / local economic development
February 2013	Elected Member development (Local Government Training Group)
May 2013	Institute of Revenues Rating & Valuation (IRRV) seminar

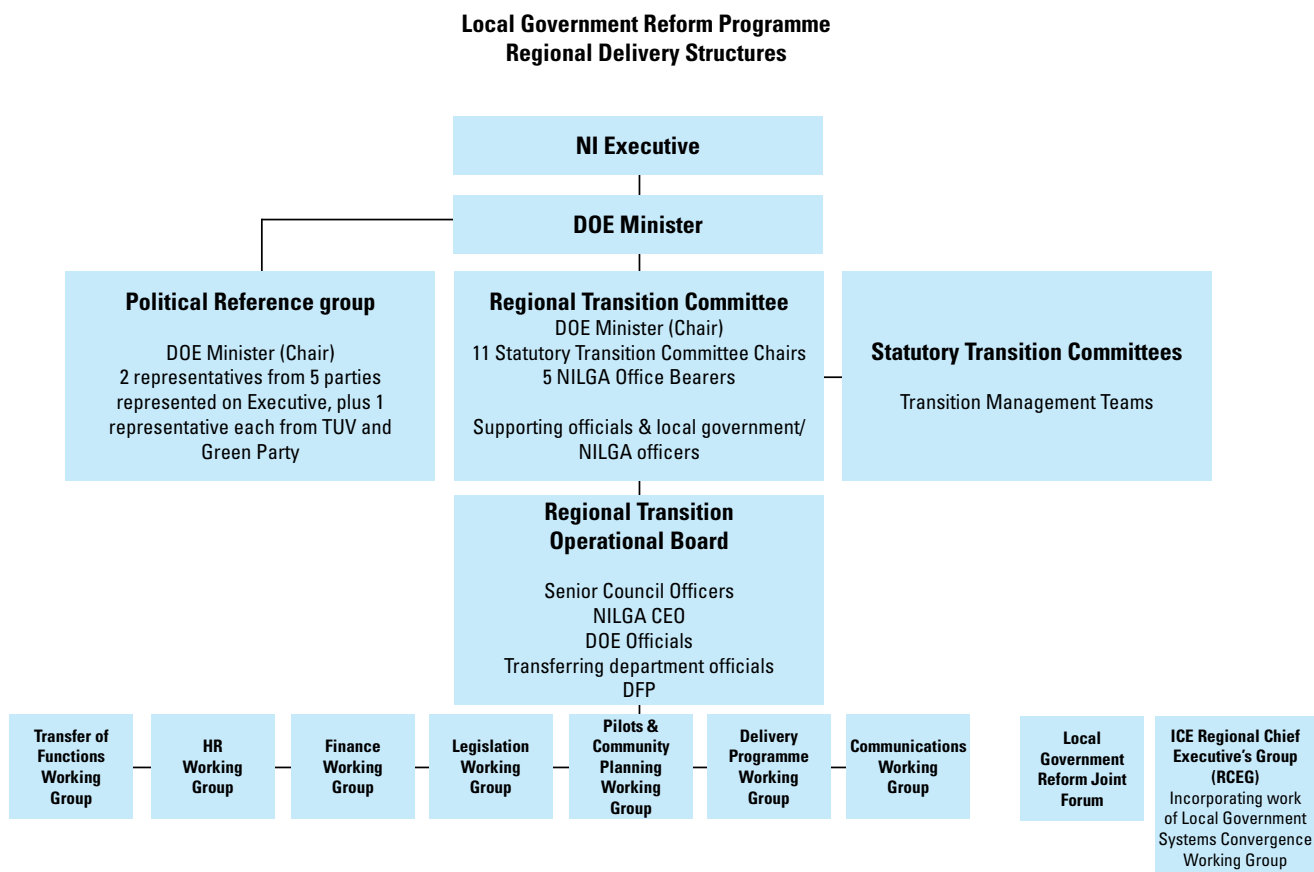
(G) Local Government Reform

During the 2012-13 financial year, NILGA entered into a contract with the Department of the Environment whereby resources are provided to enable NILGA to support the Reform process for the period up to 31 March 2015. The activities being carried out include supporting NILGA's role in the regional reform structures, communications with the local government sector and encouraging the involvement of elected members through two way communications and events on key reform topics.



NILGA Local Government Reform Bulletin (Feb. 13).

Local Government Reform structures diagram (2012/13)

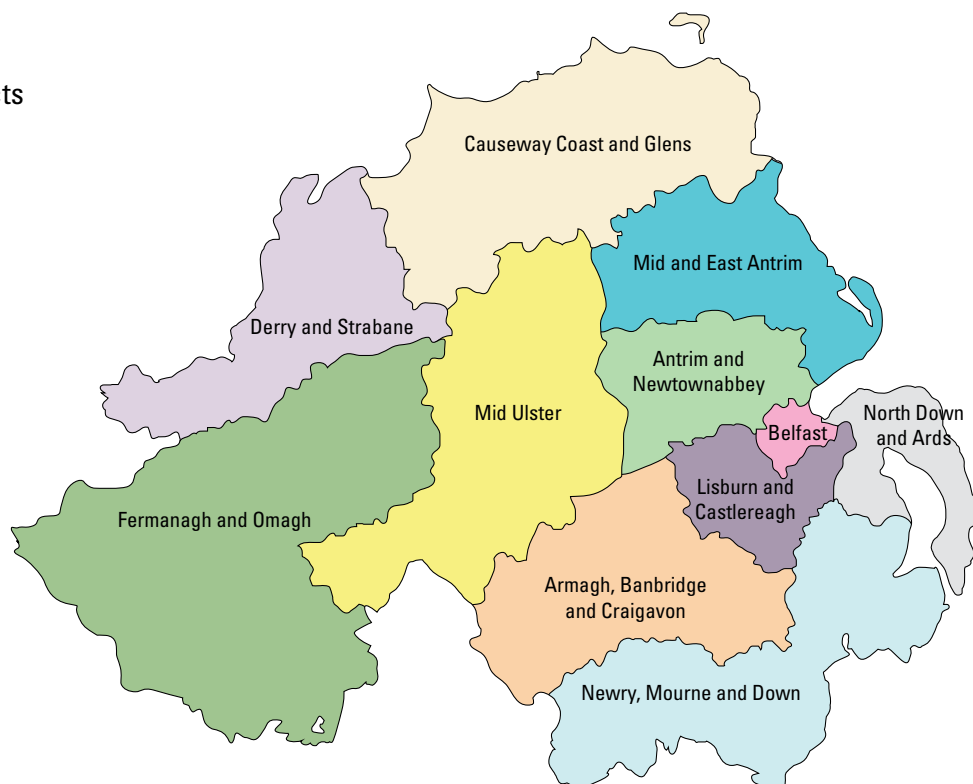


New Local Government Districts

District Index

11 New Local Government Districts

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- Mid and East Antrim
- Derry and Strabane
- Antrim and Newtownabbey
- North Down and Ards
- Mid Ulster
- Belfast
- Lisburn and Castlereagh
- Fermanagh and Omagh
- Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon
- Newry, Mourne and Down



NILGA's political and officer participation in LG Reform Structures

Committee / Working Group	Membership	Focus
Regional Transition Committee	Cllr Sean McPeake Cllr Evelyne Robinson Ald Arnold Hatch Ald Tom Ekin Cllr Dermot Curran	Chaired by the DoE Minister, the RTC provides high level political leadership and acts as the driver for implementing local government reform. Membership is made up of the 11 Transition Committee Chairs, the NILGA Office bearers, as well as supporting officials from DoE, local government and NILGA.
Political Reference Group	Cllr Sean McPeake Cllr Evelyne Robinson Ald Arnold Hatch Ald Tom Ekin Cllr Dermot Curran	Established to seek party political views on issues as required by the DoE Minister to inform his thinking as the reform programme progresses.
Local Government Reform Joint Forum	Supported by John Adams	Forum to facilitate consultation and negotiation between Employer and Employee representatives on a range of Human Resource related issues that are cross sectoral in nature in the context of the TUPE Regulations, employers' statutory obligations, and the NI Executive's Guiding Principles as recommended by the Public Service Commission.
Regional Transition Operating Board	Derek McCallan	Group chaired by the DoE Permanent Secretary and includes the NILGA Chief Executive and officers / officials from central / local government. Its role supports and advises the RTC and coordinates the operational delivery of the reform programme.
Transfer of Functions WG	Derek McCallan Sub-groups: Planning*: Karen Smyth Economic Development: Derek McCallan Regeneration: Derek McCallan	The Transfer of Functions WG brings together transferring departments and council officials to take forward many elements of the transfer of powers and resources from Executive Departments to local authorities, including key products like Planning, the timetable and extent of transfers together with integration of new services with existing ones.
Finance WG	David Bell	To ensure that financial aspects of the local government reform programme are identified and addressed by the appropriate bodies and organisations.
HR WG	John Adams	To ensure the key "people issues" of the Reform programme are identified and addressed by the relevant bodies.
Delivery Programme WG	Ken Bishop	To develop and maintain the overall delivery plan for the reform programme and to flag up issues affecting regional, high level, adherence to time tables and related performance.
Legislation WG	Karen Smyth	Provides input to the policy development for the programme of subordinate legislation, guidance and key documents needed to give effect to the primary legislation for local government reform, and to provide an overview of the legislative programme for Reform, including the transfer of functions. The group met twice in 2012, amidst delays surrounding finalisation and publication of the Local Government Bill. The group is chaired by Angus Kerr (Planning Service).
Pilots and Community Planning WG	Karen Smyth Pilots and Community Planning Sub-groups: Pilots: Karen Smyth Foundation programme: Karen Smyth Capacity Building: John Adams	Group to design and implement a range of pilot exercises that will test and refine options for delivery of planning and community planning by councils after 2015. The Pilots and Community Planning Group, chaired by Anne Donaghy (Ballymena Borough Council), both at high level and through a system of sub-groups, has revised and contemporised the Foundation Programme for community planning, developed proposals for pilot working in relation to the design and content of partnerships to enable this key element of the Reform programme. It developed a capacity building programme specifically for community planning to dovetail with the wider capacity building programme. The group has engaged with councillors regularly throughout the year (via NILGA), and has also met with representatives of future partner organisations from the public and voluntary/community sectors.
Communications WG	Mark Maher	Group to identify communication needs across central and local government, and other stakeholders impacted upon by reform; create, ensure the implementation of, and evaluate an effective plan to communicate with these audiences, identifying appropriate methodologies; exchange information and ideas to help develop communication strategies.
Local Government Systems Convergence WG	Derek McCallan	Group to support and enable the development of common approaches, model arrangements and systems (including, but not limited to, the more collaborative use of ICT systems), in conjunction with the review and redesign of service delivery models through I.C.E. (Improvement, Collaboration and Efficiency) and the Local Government Reform Programme, with the aim of ensuring service continuity and supporting improved service delivery via the new 11 council model in 2015.

**For detail see Planning Working Group report*

Working Group Reports

A key strategic role of NILGA is the provision of a structure for elected member scrutiny of and input into major issues faced by councils.

Working Groups provide a key mechanism to address issues, create actions, including lobbying and partnership working, **to improve the case for councils and ratepayers.** The NILGA Working Groups are supported by local government officers to ensure that policy is informed by those working at operational level.

NILGA members would like to reiterate their thanks to all those who provide support for this work, as it would not be possible without their practical involvement.

WORKING GROUPS SUMMARY 2012/13

(1) Modernisation, Communication and Reform

Meeting five times in 2012/13, the Working Group pushed forward major issues and concerns on all matters to do with Local Government Reform, strengthening and refreshing the Vision for Local Government and adopting the "Be a Councillor" campaign for development in advance of the next Local Government elections.

A meeting with Environment Committee Chair, Anna Lo, put forward "ten things that need to happen for local government reform to work" which were relayed in full and formal detail to the Environment Minister at a scrutiny session.

The Group also introduced new sustainability and product ideas into the sector, including on matters such as I.C.T., and in terms of analysis of progress of the I.C.E. programme.

Chair: Cllr Myreve Chambers
Vice Chair: Cllr John O'Kane



Cllr Myreve Chambers, Chair of the Modernisation, Communication and Reform Working Group, provides an update at a NILGA Full Members meeting (September 2012).

(2) Waste, Health and Environment

This has been an extremely busy year for the Waste Health and Environment Group, which has a broad remit. The group dealt with strategic issues such as Welfare Reform, Housing, Community Planning, Sustainable Development, Health Policy including 'Transforming Your Care' and 'Fit and Well' in addition to regional work on waste management.

Working relationships with the NI Housing Council and the Public Health Agency were developed further over the course of this year, and closer links were established with DSD on a number of issues.

Engagement with OFMDFM also continued to develop as the group worked towards the development of an agreed reporting and compliance system for Sustainable Development. This year saw the formation of a Local Government Sustainable Development Forum, in partnership with Sustainable NI.



Cllr Shaun Gallagher, Chair of the Waste, Health and Environment Working Group providing an update to NILGA Members (September 2012).

Activity in relation to waste management gathered pace, as the group engaged with DoE on the review of the Waste Strategy, the introduction of a new Single Use Carrier Bag Levy and continued its lobbying in relation to government proposals on recycling.

The working group provided support to the local government members of the Waste Programme Board, with NILGA providing secretariat services to the Board. The group facilitates the production of local government policy positions on relevant issues, working in partnership with the three local government waste management groups, and providing proactive input to the development of what is a particularly complex policy area.

The group was extremely pleased to see a more proactive approach from the Department and NIEA in relation to environmental crime, including fuel laundering, which has been an ongoing concern for many councils.

The group also has a relationship with Climate Northern Ireland - the regional climate change partnership - to ensure that councils are supported in adapting to climate change and in preparing for increased incidence and scale of severe weather. A joint event was held in September to look specifically at council-led adaptation.

The Chair and Vice-Chair spoke at a number of events during the year including the aforementioned Climate Change Seminar, a policy event to discuss Welfare Reform, an Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) seminar, and the Chartered Institute of Waste Management conference, on behalf of NILGA.

Chair: Cllr Shaun Gallagher
Vice Chair: Cllr Jenny Palmer

(3) Planning

With renewed emphasis on the Local Government Reform (LGR) programme, the activity of the Planning Working Group has also moved up a gear, keeping a political scrutiny and advisory brief in relation to the transfer of planning and its reform.

Readers / members should note that in all of its parts, there are **14 strands of work to planning transfer**. Council officers and NILGA staff are participating in all relevant strands – for example capacity building and communications – in partnership with officials from the Planning Service and Local Government Policy Division.

Throughout the year, the NILGA Planning Working Group has been providing views and advice in relation to a post-reform code of conduct for planning, organisational design of the new planning system, and in designing a short-term capacity building programme in advance of the main overarching programme, as well as developing positions on planning legislation and policy.

The Chair, Ald Jim Dillon, led a number of council awareness / capacity building events during 2012/13 in conjunction with partner organisations, to raise the profile of planning with elected members. NILGA's Planning Chair also contributes to the regional Planning Forum, chaired by the DoE Minister.

In addition to planning reform and transfer work, the group has taken a keen interest in the impact of renewable energy developments and community benefits, and worked with the NI Renewables Industry Group to organise a site visit to a wind farm and seminar on wind energy – each well attended and well received by members.

The work of this group will continue to focus on the transfer programme, including the forthcoming legislative programme. NILGA's Planning Working Group is keen to ensure that all elected members have access to high quality capacity building programmes to enable them to 'hit the ground

running' in relation to their vital post-reform planning duties.

Chair: Ald Jim Dillon
Vice Chair: Ald Jack Beattie



Ald Jim Dillon, Chair of the Planning Working Group addressing the NILGA Full Members (September 2012).

(4) European Union Policy & Practice

The EU Policy and Practice Working Group is a strategic EU and economic development body, whose aim is to ensure the optimum delivery of funding and investment of Structural Funds in order to stimulate sustainable economic growth in our communities, protecting councils in so doing against the impact of punitive EU and national policy directives. The group is playing a key part in ensuring that the new round of European Structural Funds for the period 2014-20 meets the needs and expectations of the 11 emerging councils.

During the year 2012-13, the group has been active in ensuring maximum spend of the current structural funds and towards shaping the new ERDF / ESF (Regional Development / Structural Funds) for the period 2014-20.

After the February 2012 engagement event (Cookstown) with councils, support bodies, cross border organisations and DFP, this was followed up by in depth analysis, lobbying and awareness raising, culminating with a pre Policy formulation event in Larne in January 2013, at which local authorities further contributed their views on an alternative way of delivering EU funding for the period 2014-20. The outcome of that event showed clearly that there **was strong support for change and a move towards a community plan led approach** and for a single tier managing authority to oversee EU funds in Northern Ireland.

Members of the Working Group including the Chairperson Cllr Deirdre Hargey, participated in the Open Days in Brussels during October 2012.

The delegation met with European Commission officials and with NI's 3 MEPs, Mr Jim Nicholson MEP, Ms Diane Dodds MEP and Ms Martina Anderson MEP, to obtain support and offer insight into the crucial role of, and evolving opportunities for, councillors and councils regarding Structural Funds, an exercise which received the MEPs full support.

Overseen by the Department of Finance and Personnel together with its counterpart in the Republic of Ireland, the SEUPB developed a schedule of programme development work on the crucial matter of how to spend, what to spend and how to account for future Structural Funds worth hundreds of millions of pounds to our local economies. Part of this work was the establishment of a single Steering Group to oversee the process, and NILGA is materially represented in order to ensure that the role of local authorities is fully known and integrated into the process. **'Local' (subsidiarity) is best, but this has to be demonstrated, with evidence, regularly at the highest levels of government, here and abroad.**

A similar nomination process was made regarding the Department of Finance and Personnel's Consultative Partnership on future European Structural Funds programmes and the DARD Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2014 – 2020 Stakeholder Consultation Group.

At its February 2013 Annual Conference, NILGA's EU Working Group developed and sponsored a dedicated achievements award, the "Best EU Project Award", which was won by Belfast City Council.

Chair: Cllr Deirdre Hargey
Vice Chair: Cllr Garth Craig



Working Group Members participated in the 2012 Open Days in Brussels, the delegation met with Commission officials and with MEP. Pictured l-r, Karine McGuckin, Ald Arnold Hatch, Ms Diane Dodds MEP, Cllr Seán McPeake, Cllr Deirdre Hargey, Derek McCallan and Cllr Trevor Cummings (October 2012).

(5) Agriculture and Rural Development

The Group, chaired by Cllr Charlie Chittick, provides a practical and political platform for local government to interact with the Northern Ireland Assembly, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and European decision makers, to proactively influence agriculture, fishing and rural development policies and actions within a wider, integrated policy agenda, including sustainable resource development.

During the year 2012-13, the group has worked on many issues but was particularly involved in the development of proposals for the new **Common Agricultural Policy**.



Cllr Charlie Chittick, Chair of the Agriculture and Rural Development Working Group addresses the NILGA Full Members (September 2012).

NILGA has nominated five members and five alternate members to the DARD Rural Development Programme 2014 – 2020 Stakeholder Consultation Group, with a clear focus and benefit, to develop actions and proposals to be included in the draft operational programme to be submitted by DARD in late 2013 to the European Commission.

Another important issue highlighted by the group was that of farm safety. Following a series of tragic incidents on farms, the group undertook to lobby the Minister and the Northern Ireland Assembly's Agriculture and Rural Development Committee to ensure that the farming and local government sectors concerns were taken into consideration. Indeed, the group has now put forward an elected member onto the recently formed (April 2012) Farm Safety Partnership (FSP). This addresses the need to enhance specific health measures and the provision of practical safety within the agriculture industry in Northern Ireland, as a reaction to unacceptable numbers of farm deaths and injuries resulting from workplace accidents over recent years. Cllr Bert Wilson is currently representing local government on this group.

Another critical issue raised by the group was that of the severe weather conditions experienced during spring 2013. Despite the positive action taken by the Department of Agriculture to support farmers affected by the spring blizzard, the group communicated in clear terms to both Minister O'Neill and the Northern Ireland Assembly's Agriculture and Rural Development Committee, in order to future proof emergency plans for such events, and to develop a long term, genuinely integrated and needs based strategy to deal with more frequent, severe, weather patterns.

The group supported the work carried out by councils under the Welfare of Animals (NI) Act. Although the classification of horses as farm animals still remains an issue for Councils, it does not seem to have resulted in the problems initially anticipated. The working group is now looking for reassurance that long-term investment can be provided as part of the Spending Review, for this additional council service.

Other topics have been discussed this year including that of Bovine Tuberculosis, Ash dieback disease, farm inspections, rural crime and the establishment of a Grocery Code Adjudicator.

During 2012/13 the group has established a good working relationship with the NI Assembly, the PSNI and the Farm Safety Partnership, and its issues are followed up and developed in the most practical and effective manner.

Chair: Cllr Charlie Chittick
Vice Chair: Cllr Sean Clarke

(6) Strategic Migration Partnership (NISMP)

NISMP has made progress on a range of issues prioritised by its Board members for the 2012/13 period, namely migration data, migrant labour and refugee integration.

The NISMP website (www.migrationni.org) has attracted a steady stream of both new and returning visitors since its launch by **OFMDFM Junior Ministers, Jennifer McCann and Jonathan Bell in November 2012**. The site acts as a one-stop information and signposting portal on issues pertaining to migration in Northern Ireland.

Economic migration into Northern Ireland has not received the detailed analysis and planning work that such a subject clearly deserves. Legal, economic migration plays its part in shaping many policies, requires a series of multi agency interventions, and should materially assist and be factored into new community planning processes as part of a council's "toolkit" for community integration and forward planning.

NISMP produced two reports on migrant labour looking at (i) deployment within the Northern Ireland workforce and (ii) vulnerability to

exploitation by agencies and employers. These reports helped build a picture of the role and status of migrant workers within the Northern Ireland economy and set out clear recommendations for NISMP to progress in tandem with relevant and interested stakeholders. The report, 'Mapping the Deployment of Migrant Labour in Northern Ireland', was launched in Ballymena with the principal address given by Minister for Employment and Learning, Dr Stephen Farry MLA.

NISMP also prioritised a proposal for a refugee integration strategy which it submitted to OFMDFM. The development of this proposal, which included a dedicated workshop for statutory agencies, voluntary sector stakeholders and refugees, has contributed to the recognition of NISMP as a medium for collating, processing and presenting the views of partners and other identified stakeholders in an inclusive and cohesive process.

The success of NISMP has been underpinned by the continued support and participation of Northern Ireland's main political parties. The recruitment of a second policy officer further demonstrates the regional value it provides.

Chair: Ald Arnold Hatch
Vice Chair: Cllr Geraldine Rice



Ald Arnold Hatch, Dr Stephen Farry, Employment and Learning Minister and Jim Norris, Director of Human Resources, Allstate Northern Ireland, at the launch of the NISMP report, 'Mapping the Deployment of Migrant Labour in Northern Ireland' (April 2013)



In November 2012, the NISMP Migration web portal was launched by Junior Ministers Jonathan Bell and Jennifer McCann. They are pictured here with Cllr Geraldine Rice, Vice Chair of the Northern Ireland Strategic Migration Partnership.

Performance Report B – providing effective and efficient services to Local Government

(1) Workforce

The issues faced by local government, here in Northern Ireland and even more noticeably in England, Scotland and Wales, have been profound and serious.

This position led to a freeze on annual pay increases which have lasted for 3 years for most staff and for up to 5 years for a small number of senior officers.

Within the Employers' Side of the National Joint Council (NJC) for Local Government Services we have used our voice to consistently reflect the views of councils in Northern Ireland. 2013 will see a move forward again for most employees in terms of the removal of pay freezes.

Some disappointment was clearly evident in 2012/13 within the Employers' Side that greater progress could not be made on wider pay reform to provide a more modern framework for employment terms and conditions in the future.

Northern Ireland level negotiations saw proposals produced jointly with the trade union side, as circulated recently, for reform of the Northern Ireland Joint Council (NIJC).

There will be full consultation with the emerging councils, guided by feedback from initial proposals, to establish future collective arrangements for engagement with trade unions which fully and clearly meet the needs of new local government after 2015.

Opportunities for workforce development were offered to councils over the last year. We followed up on a previous workforce efficiencies workshop with a roundtable event on new ways of developing organisational structures and this model is being taken forward in a number of instances.

Funding secured for projects here through Skills for Justice saw the production of case studies of excellent practice, which have been shared with councils. The same programme has supported the development of skills frameworks to support Community Planning through the reform working group headed by Anne Donaghy, Chief Executive of Ballymena Borough Council.

Elected Member Development remained in 2012/13 (and will continue to be) **priority number one**. Strabane District Council gained Member Development Charter status during the year and assessments are due in other pilot councils later this year. We have also been pleased to welcome Derry City Council who also signed a declaration of commitment to achieve Charter status. Councillors from across the province were delighted to hear from Councillor McMackin of Strabane District Council when she shared her experiences of the charter journey at the NILGA 2013 Annual Conference.

Funding has been identified for building capacity within the package to support local government reform. We have been working with colleagues in the NAC and the LGTG to ensure that those funds are deployed to meet the very real needs of councils now and into the future and to ensure a smooth transition of employees from other parts of the public sector into local government.

Going forward from now to 2015 we will continue to work to represent the interests of councils at all levels, place opportunities before councils for improvement and focus on ensuring that elected members and their development needs are identified and met.



On the 30th November 2012, Strabane District Council were awarded the Elected Member Development Charter, becoming just the second council in Northern Ireland to receive this significant recognition. Cllr Seán McPeake, NILGA President presented the award to Cllr Thomas Kerrigan, Council Chairman (2012 – 2013).

(2) Ulster in Bloom

2012 was the 34th year of the Translink Ulster in Bloom competition. NILGA is delighted that this civic pride event continues to attract great interest from most councils, the local business community, local 'In-Bloom' committees and the many residents from right across Northern Ireland. In 2012, 25 councils participated, entering a total of 115 places across the seven key categories, plus additional entries for bus and rail stations as submitted by Translink.



One of the special award winners for floral presentation in the 2012 Translink Ulster in Bloom competition – The Duke of York, Belfast.

NILGA represents, promotes, sustains and improves local government on behalf of its 26 member councils. It is therefore fitting that it continues to fully support, promote and administer the Ulster in Bloom competition with the sponsorship of Translink.

Northern Ireland continues to achieve substantial recognition in the 'Britain in Bloom' competition, this year represented by Derry City, Bangor, Ahoghill, Hillsborough and Scarva.



2012 Translink Ulster in Bloom Awards Presentation, Glenarm scooped the 'Village' award. Pictured are Jim King, Larne Borough Council, John Trethowan, Translink, Cllr Geraldine Mulvenna, Mayor, Larne Borough Council, Martyn Todd, NITB, Rosaleen Meban, Glenarm in Bloom, Ald Arnold Hatch, NILGA and Francis Wilson, Glenarm in Bloom.

(3) NILGA Conference 2013 – "Jobs and People first!"

In February 2013, almost 200 delegates, including elected members, Chief Executives and senior officers from all 26 councils, attended the NILGA Annual Conference, in Derry ~ Londonderry. The Conference was kindly sponsored by Invest Northern Ireland and the Post Office and focused on "Jobs and People First", which provided for a full day of dynamic discussion and action regarding local solutions to economic recovery. The conference reaffirmed that local jobs, local

people and local economies must come first as a priority in government and through developing the excellent work of councils within their communities. Delegates also welcomed the NI Executive's funding announcement for Local Government Reform, about which Environment Minister Alex Attwood MLA spoke, within a keynote address.

Footnote: The next NILGA Annual Conference will take place on Thursday 27th February 2014 in La Mon House Hotel, Castlereagh.



Selection of photographs from the NILGA Conference 2013, Everglades Hotel, Derry / Londonderry (February 2013).

Performance Report C – providing effective and innovative communication across the sector and with stakeholders

(1) Newsletter Bulletins

In 2012/13, NILGA provided – and was recognised for – the provision of over 20 regular, clear, summary newsletters and bulletins for our elected members, council officers and wider stakeholders.

The NILGA Bulletin takes two distinct forms, (i) providing key information on wider local government key issues, on the work being carried out by the Association on behalf of member councils and our **results against targets** and (ii) focusing entirely on Local Government Reform, issued within a few days of each Regional Transition Committee.

Councils are encouraged to distribute the Bulletins at a Full Council or Standing Committee together with retaining copies at reception and information areas, for wider readership.

(2) Website and Social Media

The NILGA website is a key communications resource for the Association and its members, featuring regular updates on local government news, events, policies opportunities for councillors / councils and information on the range of work being taken forward by the Association. Content is provided to all members of the Association and to the wider local government sector. Social media – including Twitter - is also used to signpost key features and updates to NILGA's 500 + followers.

 @NI_LGA

(3) Media Coverage

NILGA's media coverage during this period has been encouraging, with the Association supporting the interests of councils and members in regular features focusing on issues such as local government reform, planning, agriculture, the economy, waste, winter gritting and European initiatives. In particular, the 2012 Local Government

Awards and the 2012 Ulster in Bloom competition delivered significant positive media coverage for the sector and both BBC and the Belfast Telegraph provided regional / national coverage to supplement the 100 + pieces in local newspapers.

NILGA is now well established as the key resource for the media looking for a response to a local government story. The Association continued in 2012/13 to develop constructive relationships with trade journals, including Agenda NI.

(4) Engaging with Councils – Going the extra 600+ Miles...

In recognition of the contribution made by councils within all of Northern Ireland's communities since 1972 and recognising that, in 2015, 11 new councils are set to be formed, NILGA's Chief Executive is completing the "26 Council Marathon Challenge" between January 2013 and March 2015, that's one marathon every month for over two years! All proceeds for Derek's endeavours will go to the sector's chosen charity, upon completion.



Derek McCallan pictured with the Mayor of Castlereagh, Ald Michael Henderson MBE, after Derek's third of 26 runs across the 26 district councils in Northern Ireland (March 2013).



Crossing the line in Ards (June 2013).

Council	Completed to date
Down District Council	January 2013
Moyle District Council	February 2013
Castlereagh Borough Council	March 2013
Newtownabbey Borough Council	April 2013
Belfast City Council	May 2013
Newry & Mourne District Council	May 2013
Lisburn City Council	June 2013
Ards Borough Council	June 2013
Magherafelt District Council	August 2013

(5) Northern Ireland Local Government Awards

The 2012 Northern Ireland Local Government Awards were co-ordinated through NILGA's Conference in February 2013 in Derry / Londonderry. Over 240 guests attended the gala awards dinner which was hosted by Sarah Travers.

The Awards enable local government to showcase individuals, councils and councillors and their initiatives, with the seven overall award winners collecting well deserved prizes. The 2012 Local Government Awards partners included

the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE), National Association of Councillors (NAC), Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA), Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers (SOLACE NI), the William Johnson Memorial Trust (WJMT) and Northern Ireland Joint Council for Local Government Services (NIJC).

The 2012 Awards event itself was kindly **sponsored by ASDA**.



Selection of photographs from the 2012 Local Government Awards, Everglades Hotel, Derry / Londonderry (February 2013).

(6) Working with other Local Government Associations

NILGA continued to progress work with our sister associations in England, Scotland and Wales and in November 2012 hosted the UK wide National Local Government Forum for elected members, in Belfast, with COSLA (Scotland), WLGA (Wales) and LGA (England).

Also in attendance were our Irish partners the Association of City and County Councillors in Ireland (ACCC) and the Association of Municipal authorities in Ireland (AMAI). Importantly, policy work on issues such as Environmental Health and other regulatory services, subsidiarity, EU investment, work force and related pay and conditions negotiations, and national / trans-national lobbying to push local government's needs up to the highest elected member level, including MPs and MEPs.

Similarly, NILGA recognises the representation and policy influence work carried out in 2012/13 by its Committee of the Regions member, Alderman Arnold Hatch, who spoke in Brussels in February 2013 in regard to requirements for a new Marine Bill from the perspectives of councils, economic



NILGA hosted the UK wide National Local Government Forum for elected members with COSLA (Scotland), WLGA (Wales) and LGA (England). Pictured are Cllr Evelynne Robinson, NILGA Vice President with Ald Gavin Robinson, Lord Mayor of Belfast and Cllr Sir Merrick Cockell, Chairman of the LGA (November 2012).

development gained from sensibly farming the waters within and around our shores, and the provision of sustainable marine tourism, and by Councillor John Mathews, in regard to work within the Council for European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR).



Alderman Arnold Hatch, who spoke at the Committee of the Regions (COR) meeting in Brussels in February 2013 in regard to requirements for a new Marine Bill. Photo courtesy of COR.



The Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) staged a key regional event in Belfast in April 2013. Attended by representatives from over 20 European States, the convention was co-ordinated by NILGA and hosted by Belfast City Council.

(7) Engaging with political parties – Party Conferences

During 2012/13 NILGA officers attended the conferences of each of the five main political parties. Attendance at these events is critical in order to engage and lobby key party policy and decision-makers and to communicate the work that is being taken forward by local government

and the Association. NILGA will continue to speak up for local government and present the case for greater powers and resources to be placed within councils, at all party conferences, with attendance based upon available resources.



UUP Party Conference, Titanic Building. Dr Ken Bishop, NILGA with Mike Nesbitt, UUP Party Leader (September 2012).



SDLP Party Conference, Armagh City Hotel. Mark Maher and Peter Aiken, NILGA with Alasdair McDonnell, SDLP Party Leader (November 2012).



DUP Party Conference, La Mon Hotel. Karen Smyth, NILGA with Peter Robinson, DUP Party Leader (November 2012).



Alliance Party Conference, La Mon Hotel. Karen Smyth and John Adams, NILGA with Kieran McCarthy MLA (March 2013).



Sinn Féin Ard Fheis 2013, Castlebar, Co. Mayo. Derek McCallan, NILGA with Cllr Ian Patrick Milne, Magherafelt District Council (April 2013).

Performance Report D – building strong relationships – the resources to do the job

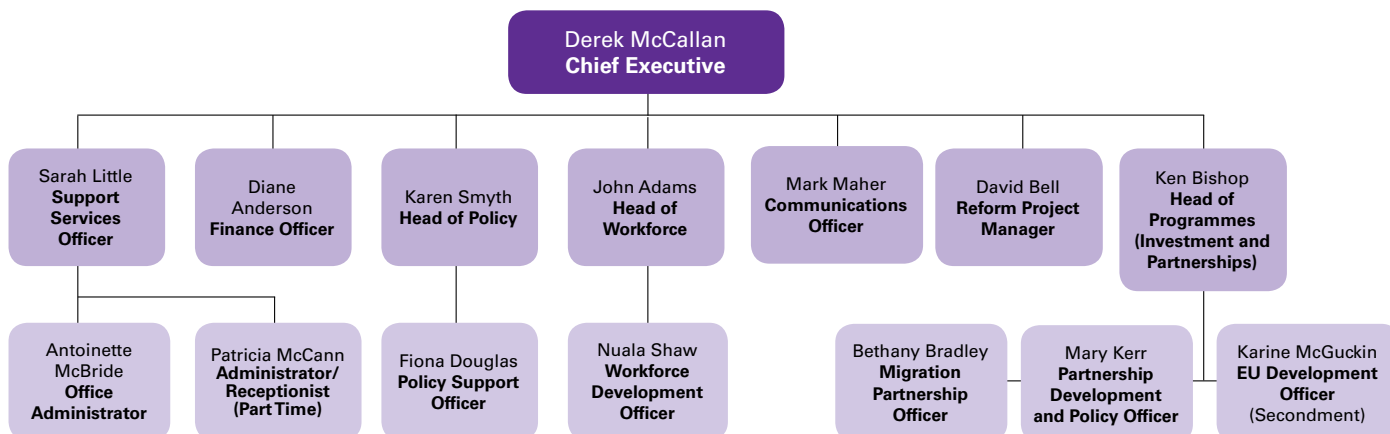
In order to deliver the range of work which is undertaken by the Association, our staff complement in 2012/13 was determined by our members through continued focus on NILGA as an effective, fully representative, cost effective, member driven body. The strong productivity and impact of NILGA's work has been fostered by a rational, resourceful approach and has been in part determined by its increased ability to draw on associate work of other bodies, not least of which have been member councillors and council officers, specialist teams and sister bodies such as COSLA (Scotland).

Where possible, the Association drew on "task and finish" resources, continued its Staff Development and Performance programme, enlisted secondments from within councils and the wider public service to reduce long term liabilities, and engaged in work for departments and agencies on a cost recovery basis (e.g. DFP, DoJ). Similarly, NILGA recognises the importance of real, trusting partnerships to deliver real change in the public service. Consequently, further constructive

work took place to enable unified policies and meaningful collaboration with SOLACE, the NAC, Local Government Training Group, the Federation of Small Businesses and other long term partners.



NILGA staff, family and friends took part in the Belfast Dragon Boat Race in June 2013, the NILGA Team raised over £1,000 for the Friends of the Cancer Centre (NI).



Performance Report E - NILGA Financial Report



Northern Ireland Local Government Association Summary Financial Statement year ended 31st March 2013

NORTHERN IRELAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OFFICE BEARERS' STATEMENT ON THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Office Bearers present herewith the summary financial statement of the Northern Ireland Local Government Association for the year ended 31st March 2013.

The summary financial statement, comprising the detailed income and expenditure account and balance sheet is only a summary of information derived from the full financial statements of the Association for the year ended 31st March 2013 which were approved by the Office Bearers at their meeting on 14th June 2013. The summary financial statement does not include information from the Office Bearers' report. The auditor has issued an unqualified report on the full annual financial statements and on the consistency of the directors' report with those financial statements. The auditor's report on the full annual financial statements contained no adverse statement under Schedule I, Part I of the Industrial Relations (NI) Order 1992.

Copies of the full annual financial statements, the auditor's report and the directors' report are available for members by application to the Association free of charge. Members can elect to receive the full financial statements and reports instead of the Annual Report.

This Office Bearers' statement was approved by the Office Bearers on 14th June 2013 and signed on its behalf by:

Handwritten signature of Cllr Seán McPeake in black ink.

Cllr Seán McPeake
President of NILGA

Handwritten signature of Mr Derek McCallan in black ink.

Mr Derek McCallan
Chief Executive of NILGA

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' STATEMENT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

I have examined the summary financial statement of the Northern Ireland Local Government Association for the year ended 31st March 2013 which comprises the detailed income and expenditure account and balance sheet.

This statement, including the opinion, has been prepared for and only for the Association's members as a body and for no other purpose. I do not, in giving this opinion, accept or assume responsibility for any other purpose or to any other person to whom this statement is shown or into whose hands it may come save where expressly agreed by my prior consent in writing.

Respective responsibilities of office bearers and examiner

The office bearers are responsible for preparing the summary financial statement in accordance with the Industrial Relations (NI) Order 1992. My responsibility is to report to you my opinion on the consistency of the summary financial statement with the full financial statements and Annual Report, and its compliance with the relevant requirements of the Industrial Relations (NI) Order 1992 and the regulations made thereunder.

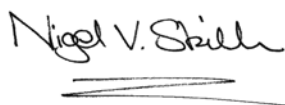
In addition I read the other financial and non-financial information contained in the Annual report and consider the implications for my report if I become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the summary financial statement.

Basis of opinion

I conducted my work in accordance with Bulletin 2008/3 The Auditor's Statement on the Summary Financial Statement in the United Kingdom issued by the Auditing Practices Board. My report on the Association's full Annual Financial Statements describes the basis of my audit opinion on those Financial Statements and the Directors' report.

Opinion

In my opinion the summary financial statement is consistent with the full financial statements and office bearers' report of the Northern Ireland Local Government Association for the year ended 31st March 2013 and complies with the applicable requirements of the Industrial Relations (NI) Order 1992, and the regulations made thereunder.



Nigel V Skillen FCA (senior statutory auditor)

for and on behalf of

Diamond & Skillen

Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditor

Sinclair House

89/101 Royal Avenue

Belfast

BT1 1FE

27th September 2013

Northern Ireland Local Government Association

Detailed Income and Expenditure Account (fund breakdown) for the year ended 31st March 2013

	General Fund £	DoE Project £	Specified Bodies NIJC £	Specified Bodies Other £	e-Govt Fund £	EU DFP £	NISMP £	TOTAL 2013 £	2012 £
INCOME									
Annual Subscriptions	404,797	-	-	-	-	-	-	404,797	382,176
Interest received	2,674	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,674	880
Seminars	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0
NILGA Annual Conference	32,303	-	-	-	-	-	-	32,303	35,213
DoE contribution to Waste Group	15,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	15,000	15,000
Specified bodies	-	-	123,119	137,032	-	-	-	260,151	271,287
Other receipts	62,093	32,232	-	-	-	81,413	102,798	278,536	256,732
	516,867	32,232	123,119	137,032	0	81,413	102,798	993,461	961,288
EXPENDITURE									
Administration expenses	312,973	30,956	108,634	-	-	67,139	59,845	579,547	567,481
Other expenses	123,620	1,276	9,528	-	-	14,274	43,034	191,732	154,909
Specified bodies	-	-	-	96,000	-	-	-	96,000	124,586
NILGA Annual Conference	19,163	-	-	-	-	-	-	19,163	17,140
Match funding	13,419	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,419	18,513
Depreciation	1,750	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,750	2,213
	470,925	32,232	118,162	96,000	0	81,413	102,879	901,611	884,842
Operating Surplus / (deficit) for the financial year	45,942	0	4,957	41,032	0	0	(81)	91,850	76,446
FRS17 PENSION SCHEME GAINS AND LOSSES:									
- Difference between current service cost and amount charged to provision	6,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,000	7,000
- Net return on pension scheme assets	(7,000)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(7,000)	4,000
- Actuarial gain / (loss) on Defined Benefit Pension Scheme	(117,000)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(117,000)	(138,000)
Total gains and losses recognised since last Financial Statement	(72,058)	0	4,957	41,032	0	0	(81)	(26,150)	(50,554)
Reserves brought forward	(84,649)	-	45,925	18,314	53,286	-	44,742	77,618	128,172
Reserves carried forward	(156,707)	0	50,882	59,346	53,286	0	44,661	51,468	77,618

The Association's general fund income and expenses all relate to continuing operations.

There are no recognised gains or losses other than the income and expenditure for the above two financial years.

Northern Ireland Local Government Association
Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2013

	as at 31-Mar-13 £	as at 31-Mar-12 £
Fixed Assets		
- Tangible assets	7,290	9,040
Current Assets		
- Debtors	102,963	145,127
- Cash at bank or in hand	176,962	140,537
- Cash on deposit	429,075	306,639
	709,000	592,303
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year	(104,822)	(81,725)
	604,178	510,578
Total assets less current liabilities	611,468	519,618
Provision for liabilities and charges		
- Pension Scheme (deficit)	(560,000)	(442,000)
Creditors - amounts falling due after one year	-	-
	51,468	77,618
Capital and reserves		
- General fund reserves		
- Accumulated surplus on operations	403,293	357,351
- FRS17 pension scheme deficit	(560,000)	(442,000)
	(156,707)	(84,649)
- Restricted project reserves:		
- Specified Bodies - NIJC	50,882	45,925
- Specified Bodies - Other	59,346	18,314
- e-Government Fund	53,286	53,286
- NI Strategic Migration Partnership	44,661	44,742
	208,175	162,267
	51,468	77,618

The summary financial statement was approved by the Office Bearers on 14th June 2013 and signed on their behalf by:



Clr Seán McPeake
 President of NILGA



Mr Derek McCallan
 Chief Executive of NILGA



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 @NI_LGA



Promoting the sustainable management of forests.