

Strong • Efficient • Cost effective



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magazine



Local government reform

Thursday 4th February
Lagan Valley Island, Lisburn

Strong • Efficient • Cost effective

Earlier this year, Northern Ireland councils went through the greatest shakeup to their organisation since 1973 and the 11 new 'super-councils' have taken on responsibility for a wider range of powers since 1 April 2015. While much of the focus has been in relation to planning, other significant powers have also been transferred across a wide range of policy and delivery functions. The transfer of urban regeneration and community development powers has now been further delayed in line with the overall reform of government departments. Councils are keen to ensure this does go ahead and are pressing for commitment on a date. It remains to be seen what will happen to Councils' investment, development and regeneration plans in the interim.

Important conference

This half day conference will look at the transition process to date and will assess how Councils have performed, individually and collectively. The speaker panel will include those working directly in local government in Northern Ireland, in a variety of roles, as well as external advisors, commentators and visiting experts. Topics under discussion will include:

- A progress report on the **implementation of reform**
- Future opportunities for local government to take on **additional powers**
- **Technology** as a driver for change
- How are new **systems and processes** operating in practice?
- Delivering **community planning**
- Looking towards the preparation of **local development plans**
- Enhancing **tourism** and local **economic development**
- **Regeneration** and **community development**: what next?
- Improving **citizen services** – moving to digital
- Upskilling staff / councillors' **code of conduct**

This conference will provide an opportunity for all those with a role or interest in local government to come together for discussion and debate. The event will examine in-depth many of the key issues around the transfer of a range of powers to local government, and the associated challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.



New powers for local government include:

- ▶ Local development planning
- ▶ Development control
- ▶ Enforcement
- ▶ Nominating buildings for spot-listing
- ▶ Listing buildings of architectural and/or historic interest
- ▶ Community development programmes
- ▶ Environmental improvement schemes
- ▶ Registration of houses in multiple occupation
- ▶ Housing unfitness (including repair and demolition notices)
- ▶ Local economic development
- ▶ Enterprise shows
- ▶ Youth and female entrepreneurship
- ▶ Social entrepreneurship
- ▶ Supporting women in business
- ▶ Business start-up advice
- ▶ Small scale tourism accommodation development
- ▶ Advice to developers on tourism policy
- ▶ Water recreational facilities
- ▶ Sports policy (More input for local government in decision-making)
- ▶ Armagh County Museum (to Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Council)
- ▶ Deliver of rural development programme
- ▶ Donaghadee Harbour (to North Down & Ards)
- ▶ Off-street parking (excluding park-and-ride facilities)

Now is the time to take a step back and assess how the transition to local government **has worked in practice** – what have been the **success stories** and which areas still require work? Certainly in the planning sphere, performance has best been described as **'mixed'** with **many councils** reporting significant backlogs of applications. In addition to taking on **new powers**, councils are having to face a **difficult financial future**, in light of the ongoing pressures on **public finances** – whilst this presents a challenge in terms of **service delivery**, it also opens up new opportunities in terms of finding **more efficient ways of working**, particularly in relation to the move towards **digital services**.

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09.30 Chairman's welcome and introduction:
Derek McCallan, Chief Executive, **NILGA**

PROGRESS
OF REFORM

*Implementing local government reform:
A progress report and looking to the
future*

Nichola Creagh, Director of Local
Government Policy Division
Department of the Environment

FUTURE OF
LOCAL
GOVERNMENT

*Looking ahead to the next phase of
reform*

Liam Hannaway, Chief Executive, **Newry,
Mourne & Down District Council** &
Chair, **Solace (Society of Local
Authority Chief Executives)**

BUSINESS
TRANSFORMATION

*Transforming local services: Improving
connectivity with citizens*

Andrew Grant, Chief Executive
Aylesbury Vale District Council
(iESE 'Council of the Year')

Questions & answers / Panel discussion

11.00 Morning coffee / networking break

TOURISM

Developing and implementing local tourism plans

Kieran McCrory, Tourism & Economic
Development Manager
Fermanagh & Omagh District Council

DEVELOPMENT
PLANS

*Local development planning: A key planning
function*

Lois Jackson, Planning Manager
Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

URBAN
REGENERATION

*Transfer of urban regeneration & community
development powers: What's next?*

Chris Hughes, Director of Urban & Community
Policy, **Department for Social Development**

COMMUNITY
PLANNING

Developing a community plan for Derry & Strabane

Oonagh McGillion, Director of Legacy
Derry City & Strabane District Council

ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT

*Growing an enterprise economy: The role of local
government*

Speaker tbc

Questions & answers / Panel discussion

13.15 Conference lunch / networking break

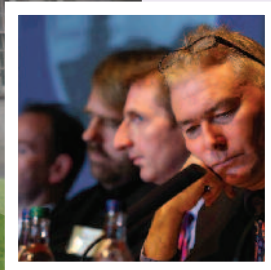


Councils now have a much broader range of powers at their disposal for delivering change on the ground where it matters most. They have an enhanced ability to shape local places, meet local needs and priorities, and promote sustainable development.



Mark H. Durkan, MLA, Minister for the Environment, September 2015





See booking form for details of how to register for code of conduct workshop.

14.00 Additional workshop

Exploring the Councillors' code of conduct

Importance of openness, accountability and good governance in government

Tim Gilling, Deputy Executive Director
Centre for Public Scrutiny

Good governance in practice: Application of the new Councillors' Code of Conduct

Marie Anderson, Deputy, Northern Ireland
Ombudsman & Commissioner for Complaints

Enforcing the Councillors' code of conduct: Issues arising in Scotland

Lorna Johnston, Executive Director
Standards Commission for Scotland

Examining the impact of the new code for Councillors

CLr Charlie Casey, Chair, **National Association of Councillors, Northern Ireland**

Questions & answers / Panel discussion

16.00 Chairman's summary / conference close



Who should attend?

The conference will be of interest to a range of stakeholders involved in and impacted by the reform of local government, across all sectors. These will include:

- Central government policy-makers
- Government agencies and NDPBs
- Local government officials
- Elected representatives / local councillors
- Legal and financial advisors
- Telecoms / IT providers
- Community representative groups
- Voluntary sector service providers
- Tourism operators
- Local economic development agencies

Benefits of attending

Delegates attending the conference will:

- ✓ Hear directly from key individuals at the centre of local government reform
- ✓ Gain insight into how the reform process has worked in practice
- ✓ Discuss opportunities for transfer of additional powers
- ✓ Understand the importance of delivering digital services
- ✓ Take an in-depth look at the Councillors' code of conduct
- ✓ Consider issues including tourism, development plans, community planning, economic development

Sponsorship opportunities

- Interesting in profiling goods or services to the local government sector?
- Got a project you would like to showcase?
- Want to highlight your organisation's capabilities?

There are a limited number of sponsorship opportunities available in association with this important conference which provides an excellent platform to showcase goods and services to a key local government audience. For further information on how your organisation can benefit through association with this conference, contact Sandra Bolan on **028 9261 9933** or email sandra.bolan@agendaNi.com



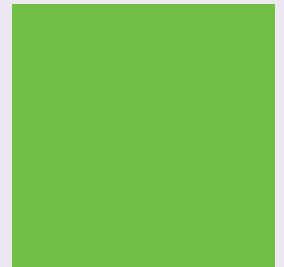
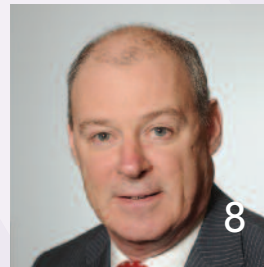
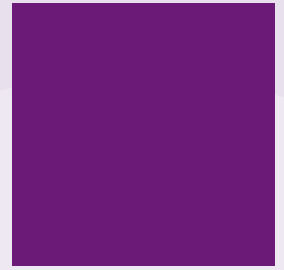
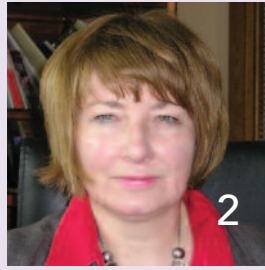
Exhibition

There are a small number of high quality **exhibition opportunities** available in association with agendaNi's annual local government conference. The exhibition stands will be located in the networking / refreshment

area and offer a great platform for an enhanced presence at the conference. Each exhibition will receive a space 3m x 2m (suitable for either a pop up display stand or 2-3 banner stands) and will be provided with a table to display marketing and promotional materials, along with a power supply. Contact **Laura O'Neill** on **028 9261 9933** or email laura.oneill@agendaNi.com for further information.

Don't miss this important business development

Conference Speakers



- 1. Derek McCallan** is Chief Executive of NILGA, the Northern Ireland Local Government Association, which aims to promote and strengthen the local government sector.
- 2. Marie Anderson** was appointed Deputy Ombudsman / Commissioner for Complaints in May 2009, having previously been Assistant Information Commissioner.
- 3. Andrew Grant** is Chief Executive of Aylesbury Vale District Council, iESE's current 'Council of the Year'.
- 4. Lois Jackson** has been Principal Planner in Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council since April 2015 and is responsible for overseeing the preparation of the Council's new Local Development Plan.
- 5. Lorna Johnston** is Executive Director of the Standards Commission for Scotland, responsible for ensuring the organisation successfully achieves its statutory responsibilities and objectives in respect of promoting the Codes of Conduct and adjudicating on alleged breaches.
- 6. Cllr Charlie Casey** is Chair of the National Association of Councillors Northern Ireland, which is run by councillors and lobbies on their behalf with local authorities, ministers, government departments and other relevant bodies.
- 7. Tim Gilling** is Deputy Executive Director and Head of Programmes (Health and Social Care) at the Centre for Public Scrutiny, a Westminster based public policy charity that promotes transparency and accountability in public services.
- 8. Liam Hannaway** is Chief Executive of Newry, Mourne & Down District Council and is the current chair of Solace, the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives in Northern Ireland.

I wish to:



- Attend the conference only**
Delegate fee: £175 + VAT @20% = £210
Discounted local government delegate fee: £150 + VAT @ 20% = £180
- Attend the conference plus Councillors' Code of Conduct workshop**
Delegate fee: £210 + VAT @ 20% = £252
- Receive details of sponsorship/exhibition opportunities at the conference
- Receive details of future agendaNi events

Personal details (please complete in block capitals)

Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr): _____

Job title: _____

Organisation: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Contact telephone: _____

Email: _____

Payment options

- I enclose a cheque for £ _____
Payable to 'bmf Business Services'.
- Please invoice me
- Please debit my Visa / Mastercard / AMEX

Card number

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How to register

 **By email**
registration@agendaNi.com

 **Online**
www.agendaNi.com/events

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+44 (0) 28 9261 9951

 **By post**
agendaNi, Davidson House
Glenavy Road Business Park, Moira
Co.Down, BT67 0LT

 **By telephone**
+44 (0) 28 9261 9933

 **Scan QR code**



Acknowledgement of registration

Confirmation of registration will be emailed to all delegates, following receipt of registration details. If you have not received your acknowledgement within 48 hours of registering, please contact Michelle Davidson at agendaNi to confirm your registration.
Email: michelle.davidson@agendaNi.com

Cancellations / substitutions

For those unable to attend, a substitute delegate may be sent at any time for no additional charge. Alternatively a refund will be given for cancellations received in writing, by fax or email, up to 14 days prior to the conference, less an administration charge of 25%. Regrettably no refunds/cancellations can be made after that date.