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nilgaNews

Welcome to NILGA News!

The Local Government Association Newsletter.

May 2025 Edition

Local Government Anniversary

April 1, 2025 marked the 10th anniversary of the newly established councils. To celebrate this milestone, NILGA hosted the Local Government Awards and celebration event on March 27.



In addition, to recognise the evolving role of councils and councillors – who are vital in advocating for and delivering services to their communities and the wider region – NILGA commissioned a Local Government Report which is featured in the latest edition of agendaNi magazine.

NILGA – A Decade of Change



NILGA May Executive

The NILGA Executive meeting took place on May 9 at the Guildhall in Derry/Londonderry. Members received a joint presentation from Advice NI and Marie Curie NI focusing on bereavement services (*more information*



Panel, waste management, local economy and more. The approved minutes from the Executive meetings are available on the NILGA website.

NILGA Resources

NILGA's Impact in 2024-25

In the past year, NILGA has achieved significant progress toward our strategic goals. We committed to driving sustainable value and innovation for our members.

Sectoral Sustainability

- Secured £353K for transformation, recruitment, and sponsorship.
- Launched NILGA-led partnerships
- Hosted events, awards, cross-border leadership, and minority ethnic participation.

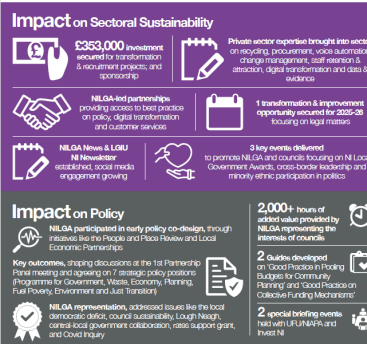
Policy

- Engaged in early policy co-design, including the People and Place Review.
- Contributed over 2,000 hours advocating for councils.
- Developed guides on budget and funding.

Future Development

- Launched the Empowering Women Programme for female councillors.
- Facilitated four development programmes and created an online learning hub.

Demonstrating NILGA's Impact in 2024-25



Impact on Future Development



NILGA's Impact Report

Digital Update for Councillors

Our digital updates are designed to keep councillors informed with the latest news, initiatives, information and training.



The event takes place at BT Tower in Belfast. Further information including the agenda for the day and booking arrangements will be shared with members in advance.

NILGA Digital Guide for Councillors

Digital connectivity encompasses mobile and fixed internet connections. Enhancing high-speed broadband and mobile access enables convenient service access for communities. In NI, local councils are advancing City and Growth Deal plans that invest in digital connectivity projects.

A guide to digital connectivity for councillors in Northern Ireland

NILGA Press Release

NILGA Learning Hub

This OpenLearn Hub, prepared in collaboration with the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA), features a collection of free online resources designed to support learning and skills development for councillors.

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NILGA Learning Hub

NILGA Learning Hub

NILGA, in partnership with The Open University, recently launched the online learning hub for elected members. Here are some of the digital articles, videos and courses that are currently available.

1. An expert's take on AI
2. Free resources for a safer online experience
3. Learning from major cyber security incidents
4. 60 Second Adventures in Artificial Intelligence

Ofcom The Future of Connectivity Event

On Tuesday, June 17, Ofcom is hosting an event focused on connectivity in NI, looking at fixed, mobile and wireless networks. The event will explore the current picture, discussing how connectivity can act as an economic and societal driver, as well as looking at future opportunities and challenges.



Ofcom Event Registration

How can councils use AI?

AI Unpacked is a series of short explainer videos from the Local Government

How can
councils
use AI?



starting point for understanding and
engaging with AI concepts.



AI Unpacked Resource

DAERA Minister launches NI's first Blue Carbon Action Plan



NI's first Blue Carbon Action Plan contains 22 action points and will provide the foundation for the protection of our blue carbon habitats. It will also provide for nature-based solutions to mitigate climate change through the absorption of carbon dioxide in the NI inshore area. NILGA President, Cllr Alison Bennington attended the launch at Mount Stewart.

[Press Release](#)

Digital Update for Councillors

The next NILGA Regional Programme for Councillor Development – Regulating and Monitoring event is scheduled for May 28.

The online event, delivered in partnership with the **Institute of Licensing**, is focused on the licensing process and discharging your duties as an elected representative. To register your attendance, please email events@nilga.org

[More Information](#)

NILGA Regional Programme for Councillor Development - Regulating and Monitoring

Institute of Licensing
Incorporating the National Association of Licensing and Enforcement Officers

The licensing process and discharging your duties as an elected representative

28th May 2025

Online via Microsoft Teams

17:50 (18:00 start) to 20:00

To register, please email events@nilga.org

Electoral Office Launch Online System for Electoral Identity Card

The Electoral Office recently “soft-launched” a new online service to allow the public to apply for an Electoral Identity Card.

The Electoral Office is now actively promoting this service and will no longer be

[Electoral Registration](#)

To support the public the Electoral Office have developed an **instructional video** that explains the new online system.

[ID Card Application](#)

Supporting Bereaved People in NI – Simplifying Administration

Marie Curie, a leading End of Life Charity and Advice NI, the NI Independent Advice Network are working together to explore options for extending the remit of the Bereavement Service currently based in DfC. This would allow for the sharing of registered deaths across Departments in a more systematic way.

[Policy Briefing](#)

Office for Environmental Protection

[OEP NI Protected Sites](#)

The Office for Environmental Protection (OEP) are an independent public body established under the Environment Act 2021. They aim to protect and improve the environment and their remit covers NI. They have expertise and experience in environmental law, regulation and policy, environmental issues and science. The OEP published their NI protected sites report at the end of April. The presentation from the launch event is now available.

NI Audit Office & NI Environment Agency – Anti Fraud in Planning

On April 11, the NI Audit Office and the NI Environment Agency held an event focused on planning. The purpose of the event was to raise awareness about what planning fraud might look like, the conditions that can increase the risk of planning fraud, and the controls that can be implemented to mitigate these risks. Presentations from the event are now available to councillors, planning committee members, and local government staff involved in the planning process.

Anti fraud in Planning

Public Bodies' Response to Misrepresented Soil Analysis

Dates for your Diary



Meeting with UFU, NIAPA & Young Farmers

On Wednesday 21 May, NILGA will meet with representatives from the UFU, NIAPA, Young Farmers and Rural Support.



Regional Programme

The next NILGA Regional Programme for Councillor Development event is scheduled for Wednesday May 28. To register please email events@nilga.org



BT Cyber Security Event

On Thursday June 5, BT are hosting a cyber security event in partnership with NILGA. The event will be held at BT Tower, Belfast. Further details will be provided in advance.



Local Government Partnership Panel

The next meeting of the Local Government Partnership Panel is scheduled for Wednesday June 11. Taking place at Lagan Valley Island, Lisburn. The theme for the meeting is 'Delivering Economic Prosperity', and further details will be provided to members in advance.



NILGA Annual General Meeting

The NILGA AGM is scheduled for Friday June. 27. Taking place in Mossley Mill, Newtownabbey, the meeting will also include the June Executive. Further details will be provided in advance and where possible, members are encouraged to attend the meeting in person.

Further details of NILGA meetings and events

Council Updates



Fermanagh & Omagh nature based activities at accessible workshops

Almost 450 children, young people and adults, many of whom have additional needs, enjoyed accessible workshops, hosted by Fermanagh & Omagh District Council. Organised by the Council's Climate Team, the participants had an opportunity to explore the local environment and learn about nature and Climate Change all whilst having fun.

Officially a friendly operator

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council is proud to announce its official recognition as a JAM Card operator, reinforcing its commitment to inclusivity and accessibility for all residents and visitors.

[Press Release](#)

[Press Release](#)


Lisburn & Castlereagh Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP)

A new funding programme has been launched by Lisburn & Castlereagh PCSP to help support projects that tackle crime. The scheme is open to all constituted community groups, neighbourhood watch schemes and community police liaison committees operating within the LCCC area.

[Press Release](#)

Antrim & Newtownabbey BC Launches New Anti-Poverty Strategy

Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council has officially launched a new Anti-Poverty Strategy, a landmark initiative aimed at tackling the growing issue of poverty across the Borough.

[Press Release](#)




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