

Report on	National Association of Councillors and Local Government Staff Commission - 2022-2023 Annual Subscriptions
Date of Meeting	Thursday 3 March 2022
Reporting Officer	Philip Moffett, Assistant Director: ODSP
Contact Officer	Eileen Forde, Members Support Officer

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	x

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update the committee on correspondence received from the National Association for Councillors (NAC) on annual contribution payable for 2022-23 and the Local Government Staff Commission (LGSC). This report is for information. The council is a member of the National Association of Councillors until such times as it should opt not to be.
2.0	Background
	<p>Local Government Staff Commission</p> <p>2.1 The Local Government Staff Commission (LGSC) is an Executive Non-Departmental Public Body established under the Local Government (NI) Act 1972. Members will be familiar that it exercises general oversight and makes recommendations on matters connected to recruitment, training and terms and conditions of employment of officers of council and the Housing Executive. Councils are obliged to make annual payment for services provided.</p> <p>2.2 The NI Executive in June 2014 agreed that the Commission be wound up on 31st March 2017 (2 years after the establishment of the new Councils i.e. Local Government Reform). Pending the outcome of the review on this by the Minister which to be communicated to the Commission, the Council continues to be subject to Schedule 3 of the Local Government Act (NI) 1972. It confirms that the budget for the operation of the Staff Commission is to be apportioned between all Councils and the NI Housing Executive</p> <p>National Association of Councillors</p> <p>2.3 The Council is a member of the National Association of Councillors (NAC) to which it has elected member representation. The current representation extends to 8 members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr McFlynn, SDLP • Cllr Cuthbertson, DUP • Cllr Black, DUP • Cllr McKinney, UUP • Cllr Molloy, SF • Cllr O'Neill, SF

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Doris, SF • Cllr Clarke, SF <p>The National Association of Councillors Northern Ireland Region was established 25 years ago, after local councillors decided they needed a strong local body as well as belonging to the UK National Association of Councillors. The NAC is the only organisation directly run by councillors and represents elected members across all Councils. The NAC works to lobby on the behalf of Councillors. Information on the NAC is accessible from</p> <p>http://www.nationalassociationofcouncillorsni.org.uk/index.htm</p> <p>The council has received a request for payment for the incoming 2022-23 membership.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The Council has received an invoice for payment to the LGSC for the period 2022-23. The Council is required by statute under the Local Government Act (NI) 1972 to make this payment.
3.2	The Minister for Communities recently invited all councils to comment on whether it felt there were any reasons that the Executive decision to dissolve the Commission should be reconsidered. The outcome of the Minister's final decision on this has not yet been informed/notified to the Department for Communities. The Council did respond to this request from the Minister indicating that it did not have any reason to offer as to why the Staff Commission should not dissolve, as previously agreed.
3.3	The Council has received an invoice for payment to the National Association for Councillors (NAC) relating to the period 2022-23 to which it is currently a member council. The fee for membership has not increased since the inception of Mid Ulster Council in 2015.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: NAC £3,200 and LGSC £23,787. To be met from within council existing budgetary provision
	Human: Not applicable
	Risk Management: Not applicable
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: Not applicable
	Rural Needs Implications: Not applicable
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	That the committee notes request for subscription payment requests for the National Association of Councillors and the Local Government Staff Commission for the period 2022-23.
6.0	Documents Attached & References

	Not Applicable
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