

Nominations received for Chair of the Association

Chairman
1 vacancy
Election required
Jonathan Davies
Keith Stevens

CHAIR NOMINATION FORM

Title	Mr
First name	Jonathan
Surname	Davies
County association	Cumbria Alc
Council name	Penrith Town Council & Clifton Community Council
Precept	£450,069 – PTC £11,000 CCC
Electorate	9523- PTC 678 – CCC (based on data supplied by district council)

Explain why you are standing for this position (250 words max)

NALC has a crucial role in representing and acting as the advocate for the sector at this crucial time as we move through and beyond the pandemic and in the turbulent times as the UL adjusts to the post Brexit era.

NALC as the voice of town and parish council has a key role to see the grassroots led change grow to deliver the positive change to communities. NALC has a role to champion and promote the sector both to government and to the media to encourage others to get involved and help deliver for our communities.

The Chair of NALC has a key role in making sure the sector get the recognition it deserves and needs and encourage the next generation of community leaders to take up the torch and get involved.

Please outline three key achievements, skills or experiences that are relevant to the position applied for (250 words max each)

Have run my own small business for 20 plus years alongside delivery of peer to peer collaboration and mentoring networks.

I served as Chair of North Cumbria Federation of small business in the past helping shape policy to empower small business and acting a voice for the sector.

I have always believed and work to deliver positive change through collaboration and engagements this has recently seen the launch of a district heat network initiative for Penrith using waste heat from industry that will deliver renewable sourced heat direct to homes. This was through engagement conversation and the drive to think outside the box to deliver positive results

Set out your vision for NALC and how it can improve the service(s) it provides to members (250 words max)

My Vision for NALC is to deliver a more engaging and connected association that member councils and councillors feel part of the process and association not just at the AGM but year round. I also firmly believe that NALC should not just be bound to the confines of our current focus but look to embrace the other nations of the UK to become a representative association for all councils that serve at the grassroots of democracy in the UK. The NALC delivery structure needs to be more connected to the membership and the county associations more directly part of the NALC organisational structure. Were the county associations many of who have district level associations under them before they directly engage member councils must be more connected. My vision for NALC would be to take forward a change to the structure that has county associations become NALC branches sitting under a unified association with a UK wide constitution and remit to deliver for all member councils who would have a voice from the grass roots of the communities they serve right up the tree to the national council of the association.

CHAIR NOMINATION FORM

Title	Councillor
First name	Keith
Surname	Stevens
County association	East Sussex
Council name	Wartling
Precept	£7500
Electorate	350

Explain why you are standing for this position (250 words max)

I have enjoyed my time as Vice Chair (Finance) over the past four years and the role has given me the necessary experience and confidence to stand for the position of Chair. I hope that my annual presentations to the AGM and the way in which I have kept assembly members informed about the Association's finances has demonstrated my ability to be the Chair.

Whilst I am currently Chair of a smaller Parish Council I have also been the Chair of a medium sized Parish Council. I was also Chair of my CALC for 10 years and I am currently Chair of East Sussex Community Voice which delivers HealthWatch to the County. With this experience, coupled with my career as a private banker with Coutts (which equipped me to engage with people from all walks of life), I am confident that I will be able to work to secure NALC's strategic objectives through meetings with ministers, senior representatives of the LGA and other national organisations.

Please outline three key achievements, skills or experiences that are relevant to the position applied for (250 words max each)

In my role as Vice Chair (Finance) I believe I have demonstrated that I have high personal standards with regard to honesty, reliability and commitment by the way in which I have chosen to keep assembly members up to date with the Association's financial circumstances. Finance is not always an easy subject to get across to large numbers of people but I am pleased by the number of members who have thanked me for the way in which I present figures and indeed the rolling three year budget to them.

During the past four years I have deputised for the existing Chair on numerous occasions. I have chaired various meetings, spoken at other CALCs meetings and AGMs, given evidence before a Commons select committee, represented NALC at numerous meetings including two with Lord Gardiner, meet with HRH The Princess Royal on three separate occasions including our last conference in Milton Keynes. All these events have in my opinion gone well and I hope strengthened NALCs position. They have also helped me develop a good working relationships with the staff who know that I am approachable to discuss any problems they may have.

Again in my present role I have already met with many of our major sponsors and developed good relationships especially with BHIB who have recently extended their sponsorship arrangement with us. At our conferences/AGMs prior to the Covid pandemic I always arrived the night before to offer help to the staff in setting up but also to chat with as many sponsors as possible to check they were all happy. These relationships are important and I believe it would be beneficial to the Association for me to continue and build upon these links as Chair of the Association.

Set out your vision for NALC and how it can improve the service(s) it provides to members (250 words max)

For the work done by NALC and the CALCs leading to Parish and Town Councils being fully recognised and acknowledged as the first tier of local government.

NALC has improved its services and reputation over the past few years and our existing Chair will be a hard act to follow. Sue and the management team have set the Association on a journey which I believe is the right path. The Covid pandemic has caused some delays to our improvements but to be frank it has had a positive side in that it has made us rethink how best to deliver our services. As a result:

-Our online events have not only attracted much larger audiences than our traditional style event but they have attracted councillors who have not wished to travel in the past. I appreciate that many people, myself included, prefer face to face events but we need to balance both to reach the optimum numbers.

-I do not believe we need to retain 109 Great Russell Street. It has served its purpose but is now no longer fit for our purpose as I think Covid has shown. Yes we need a presence in London but by way of a smaller property either purchased or rented.

-From a financial view point the Virtual Assembly and committee meetings have been highly successful. Our bottom line figures back this up. I am not suggesting that all meetings continue to be virtual but we need to find the right balance not just because of the finance but also because of the time element as the majority of members spend far more time travelling to and from meetings than at the actual meeting.

-We need to review our committees and the way they conduct business. In some cases I believe they should be issue lead rather than having regular fixed meetings. They should be called upon to give their views on issues/topics relevant to their committee.