

## Nominations received for Policy committee

<b>Policy</b>
<b>7 vacancies</b>
<b>Elected</b>
Colin Peacock
* Jonathan Davies
Peter Allison
Lillian Burns
David Francis
Tony Hirons
David Chalmers
<i>* Should Jonathan Davies be elected as chair of the association, he will withdraw from Policy committee</i>

## POLICY COMMITTEE NOMINATION FORM

<b>Title</b>	Mr
<b>First name</b>	Peter
<b>Surname</b>	Allison
<b>County association</b>	West Yorkshire
<b>Council name</b>	Wilsden Parish Council
<b>Precept</b>	£62,169
<b>Electorate</b>	3,782

**Explain why you are standing for Policy committee (250 words max)**

I am standing for re-election to the Policy Committee because this is my main area of interest. I believe it is where I will be able to help address some of the challenges confronting our sector. Although austerity is claimed to be over, there will continue to be demands from local communities for new and improved services that principal authorities are unable or unwilling to deliver. This will result in significant opportunities for local councils. This has been clearly shown by the ways our sector responded to Covid-19. The challenge is to ensure the policy and practice both nationally and locally enables local councils to deliver what communities demand. Areas such as climate change and an ageing population present new challenges for many parished areas. Communities have been presented with many opportunities to take more control but in many cases the detailed legislation and processes are not fit for purpose. Whilst the desire for a "light touch" in establishing the processes was in many ways admirable, it has frequently resulted in a lack of clarity. This can result in significant differences in how different levels of government interpreted the intent of policy and practices.

There are a number of changes taking place in the structure of local government, including the establishment of new county-wide unitary authorities and devolution to regional mayors. This represents another challenge for our sector and emphasises the need for NALC to be active in the policy development area.

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

The ability to analyse a document, whether this be for a commercial or technical contract or for a government consultation, was a skill that I developed during my business career. This has helped me to contribute towards NALC to making an effective response to a number of government consultations over the last two years. When assessing government proposals it is necessary to see the broad implications for our sector and also be able to identify those areas where a small change of emphasis in a proposals may deliver incremental opportunities for local councils.

As a neighbourhood planning champion I have received detailed training on the evolving contribution of neighbourhood plans. This, plus the insights gained in specialised workshops and briefings from government has allowed me to develop a better understanding of the evolution of neighbourhood plans and how local councils can contribute to the development of their area. In this role I have given a number of presentations to councils considering starting a neighbourhood plan. I have arranged workshops for neighbourhood plans to focus upon particular issues including presentations from Historic England. I am also the chair of my council's neighbourhood plan working group.

I was heavily involved in the initial development of the parish council charter between Bradford Council and all local councils in the district. This has continued and I am now the lead councillor reviewing the charter and continuing to ensure that it reflects the developing involvement of local councils in delivering services to their areas.

## POLICY COMMITTEE NOMINATION FORM

<b>Title</b>	COUNCILLOR
<b>First name</b>	LILLIAN
<b>Surname</b>	BURNS
<b>County association</b>	Cheshire
<b>Council name</b>	Prestbury Parish Council
<b>Precept</b>	£79,008
<b>Electorate</b>	2,870

**Explain why you are standing for Policy committee (250 words max)**

I believe I am bringing a great deal to NALC's Policy Committee, which I have served on for more than five years now. As committee vice chair, I am contributing to well over 90% of the submissions made on behalf of NALC and am sometimes taking the lead in responding to calls for evidence by parliamentary committees and government consultations such as the response to the Planning White Paper and to the 'Changes to the Current Planning System' document in 2020. More recently, I led on the response to the House of Lords Built Environment Committee call for evidence on housing demand. Also, through the Policy Committee, I am NALC's appointed representative on the Rural Services Network (RSN).

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

1. I am a journalist by training and particularly enjoy carrying out research projects, especially planning-related ones. In 2018 I researched and wrote, along with a colleague, the NALC report on Neighbourhood Plans: 'Where Next for Neighbourhood Planning' which is on the 'publications' page on the NALC website: <https://www.nalc.gov.uk/library/publications/2755-where-next-for-neighbourhood-planning/file>). In addition, I have written the odd article and blog for NALC.

2. I have also had some experience of public relations and marketing work but, for the last 25+ years, have devoted a significant amount of time to doing voluntary planning and transport policy work on behalf of a number of non-governmental organisations including the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) and Voluntary Sector North West. I have developed a particular expertise in spatial planning.
3. I am a very experienced Parish Councillor, having served (as an Independent) for over 22 years. From the outset, I was active in events and meetings arranged by the Cheshire Association of Local Councils (ChALC). I was elected to the ChALC board 17 years ago and became deputy to the previous National Assembly member eight years ago, taking over when he stepped down a couple of years later. In addition to NALC's Policy Committee, I serve on the Smaller Councils Committee and the Climate Change Task & Finish Group.

© NALC 2021

## POLICY COMMITTEE NOMINATION FORM

<b>Title</b>	Mr
<b>First name</b>	David
<b>Surname</b>	Chalmers
<b>County association</b>	Devon
<b>Council name</b>	Northam
<b>Precept</b>	£358,975
<b>Electorate</b>	12,000 approx

I am standing for the Policy Committee because I regard the forming of common policy initiatives for our government sector to be an increasingly important role of NALC – especially at a time when the role and responsibilities of town and parish councils is increasing.

My own Devon Association has just employed a part time policy officer to enable us to better serve the interests of our member councils – and to craft policies amongst many relevant subjects on active travel, the development of cycling routes, how councils should respond to the climate emergency and the current housing crisis facing the privately rented sector. The lobbying of central government, MPs and our county council on behalf of our town and parish councils is regarded as one of the key benefits of membership of the national association. I am keen to be involved to make our work more effective.

I am an excellent communicator and have the strategic experience, knowledge and skills gained throughout my career – at first in HM Treasury and later running the international commercial operations of one of the world’s major media houses – which I believe will help me to serve NALC well on its policy committee.

Alongside serving my community for the past 6 years as a parish and town councillor and representing my district on the county association, I am a Governor and Chair of Curriculum and Quality Committee of Northern Devon’s Petroc College and Chair of the local Charity Sunrise Diversity, which hosts the region’s celebrated annual diversity festival.

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

Over the past 6 years since I first became involved in local government, I have served on two different councils, firstly on Fremington Parish Council and the most recent two years on Northam Town Council. Both experiences helped me to understand how important it is to ensure that the voices of both large and small councils are heard in debates, and that their specific needs are taken into account. From my experience it is also vital that councils work together on a local, county and national level. On both Councils I was elected as Chair of Finance and HR. Throughout this period I have represented Councils and my Districts on the County Association and recognise the importance of our working together, sharing our experiences and offering support to each other's aims and objectives.

I have been involved from the outset in reforming the governing structure of DALC, assisting in our transition to a CIC and was elected last year as Vice Chair of the Board. Two years ago I was elected as one of Devon's representatives to NALC, which has given me a greater understanding of how councils work together at a national level. I was very supportive of DALC employing a part time policy officer to help us craft policies for Devon, which will support the work of NALC at a national level, and as the recently elected Chair of Devon's County Committee I intend to lead and help coordinate our strategic work on future policies.

Whilst serving as Mayor of Northam during the pandemic year, with many of my normal civic duties curtailed, I oversaw an overhaul of our Committee structure, standing orders and policies. With my encouragement we embraced virtual meetings from the outset.

Under my leadership we prioritised the climate emergency by establishing a sub committee of the Council with its own budgetary powers, and were the first council in the country to support the campaign to end the sale of throw away polystyrene surfboards, which secured the support of local businesses. We set up a committee involving Officers and Councillors from County and District Councils and other interested parties to find solutions to our long standing car parking situation.

Recognising the importance of promoting active travel in tackling the climate emergency, improving health, supporting local tourism and connecting our communities, I looked into establishing new cycle routes in our area. Following a residents survey, town hall meetings and consultations with local interest groups, we met with other neighbouring town and parish

councils, as well as officers and councillors from the District and County Councils, to develop a common initiative. We used our collective voice to influence County Council policy, where previously the priority had been to develop cycle routes in more urban areas, and through DALC have involved all councils from across the county, for whom developing cycle routes is increasingly a major issue. Most recently together with several neighbouring councils and the District Councils of North Devon and Torridge we have funded a viability study into developing new cycle routes for our part of the county.

Elected three years ago as the Chair of the Liberal Democrat European Group, since the UK's departure from the European Union, I have worked to develop European links at a local government level and have been invited to participate in meetings of the EU's Committee of the Regions. In consultation with Parliamentarians, and local government representatives from the UK and other European countries, I am contributing to attempts to revive the twinning arrangements between UK towns and towns and regions across the EU. I was instrumental in crafting the campaign "Protect Our Twins" which utilises the twinning relationships between towns and regions in the UK and Poland to develop policies in support of the Polish LGBT+ community. This campaign is being adopted by several other European countries.

Recognising that NALC has an existing policy to improve diversity amongst its members I have practical experience that could help it achieve those aims. I am Chair of the local charity in Northern Devon - Sunrise Diversity - which celebrates diversity, challenges discrimination and changes attitudes in our rural communities, and am the Governor at Petroc College responsible for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. As a gay man myself I understand many of the barriers which prevent people from diverse backgrounds wanting to become more involved in local government. Until recently I was the Liberal Democrat Diversity Champion for Devon and Cornwall, where I helped design policies intended to encourage and offer support to candidates from diverse backgrounds - woman, LGBT+, ethnic minorities and people with disability.

## POLICY COMMITTEE NOMINATION FORM

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

**Explain why you are standing for Policy committee (250 words max)**

I strongly believe in the potential the sector has to deliver positive change and empowerment to communities. However, to enable town and parish councils to deliver we need to have the backup of policy and recognition from Westminster to deliver that change. NALC through its policy has the potential and influence for our member councils to deliver the change to government policy to enable us to serve our communities. This is why I see the vital role of NALC policy committee as key to empowering the sector to deliver and serve our communities.

**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 am chair of a community council as well as a member of a town council and have served the communities acting as a voice for them and advocate for positive collaboration and change.

I have recently worked to see the announcement of the creation of a district heat network project that will evolve to serve the town of Penrith using waste heat from nearby industry to provide clean renewable heating to homes in the community.

## POLICY COMMITTEE NOMINATION FORM

<b>Title</b>	Cllr Dr
<b>First name</b>	David
<b>Surname</b>	Francis
<b>County association</b>	Northumberland
<b>Council name</b>	Newton on the Moor and Swarland
<b>Precept</b>	£23000
<b>Electorate</b>	820

### **Explain why you are standing for Policy committee (250 words max)**

I am committed to advancing the interests of local councils throughout the country.

As a past CALC chief officer for over thirty years, I have a decent grasp of the day-to-day issues facing councils of all sizes.

I joined the Policy Committee 5 years ago, and I have chaired it over the past 2.5 years.

I have a long-established background in public policy work, as well as in local council law and procedures, and I consider that I understand our sector well.

I am pleased to have promoted contributions from all committee members, not only during meetings but also with the growing amount of business which now takes place between meetings.

I have worked closely and supportively with NALC's staff, to ensure that we have a robust portfolio of policy-positions, and that we make well-argued representations to Government departments and agencies on behalf of our sector.

I enjoy undertaking research to ensure we have a proper understanding of the background and context of the issues and proposals on which we are expected to develop a policy position.

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

In various capacities, I have been involved with NALC since the early 1980s, and I have remained committed to the Association throughout both the good and the not-so-good times. I like to think that I have made a significant contribution to my previous five years on the Policy Committee, in helping to draft and shape our responses, setting campaign priorities, ensuring our members' views are given a fair consideration, and promoting NALC to the wider world.

My formal qualifications include a PhD in rural community development, a postgraduate planning diploma and a degree in geography. Until I retired in 2016, I was the chief officer of a CALC and RCC for 30 years, and I was formerly a Chartered Town Planner. I have co-authored several books on rural community development practice, and provided training on this theme throughout the UK to practitioners in the voluntary and public sectors.

In addition to my directly-relevant knowledge and experience in the local councils' sector, my other interests and expertise include long-distance walking/running/cycling, pantomime, rural living, dog welfare and rescue, community assets, and real ale.

## POLICY COMMITTEE NOMINATION FORM

<b>Title</b>	Councillor
<b>First name</b>	Anthony
<b>Surname</b>	Hirons
<b>County association</b>	Leicestershire & Rutland ALC
<b>Council name</b>	Lutterworth Town Council
<b>Precept</b>	£270,000
<b>Electorate</b>	11,860

**Explain why you are standing for Policy committee (250 words max)**

I am an experienced Town Council and, for a number of years have also been on the board of the Leicestershire & Rutland ALC, firstly as a Council representative and then as a Director. I have also served as the Leics & Rutland representative on NALC. Having been elected as a member of the Policy Committee I have been actively engaged in Policy Committee meetings and commenting on Policy Committee papers and NALC responses to government.

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

- 1 I have had experience of serving on the Policy Committee and been active in helping to prepare responses.
- 2 I have, for over 10 years been a member of the Town Council Planning Committee and am experienced and well versed in Planning matters
- 3 Since its inception on 1974, I am the 1<sup>st</sup> Town Councillor to have served 3 terms as Town Mayor so have a great deal of experience in chairing meetings and working with others.



## POLICY COMMITTEE NOMINATION FORM

<b>Title</b>	Cllr, Dr
<b>First name</b>	Colin
<b>Surname</b>	Peacock
<b>County association</b>	Lancs
<b>Council name</b>	Warton
<b>Precept</b>	£20,300
<b>Electorate</b>	1930

**Explain why you are standing for Policy committee (250 words max)**

I see NALC as having three functions of which one is the external one to promote policies from Government, private enterprise, utilities and NGOs which help local councils better serve their communities and also for lobbying for the sector as a whole and for external promotion and publicity.  
I believe that the Policy Committee is there to do this and that it is the area I have most experience in.

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

Parish councillor in Warton since 1973. In that time I have been part of the teams that got the overhead wires put underground in the village conservation area; that brought about our village play area (cost about £180,000) and our allotments (21 half-sized plots).  
I've also been instrumental in stopping several potentially damaging developments in the parish but also in persuading people to accept other, useful, development and to understand the planning process.  
Now involved in a complex project involving the PC, a local residents' group, RSPB, AONB Landscape Trust and others that has bought 90 acres of land that regularly floods and is hoping to

deliver flood prevention for some dwellings, a more usable footpath between our two main communities along with greatly improved habitats created through developing wet meadow land using low-input farming.

Member of the joint parishes group from six parishes, four in Lancashire and two in Cumbria, that, uniquely, brought about the first management plan for the Arnsdale/Silverdale AONB and set up its Countryside Management Service and A/S AONB Landscape Trust, its membership charity. This cooperation continues as the parishes together with our two District Councils have recently created a specific planning DPD for the whole AONB to neighbourhood plan detail, but far stronger as this is the primary plan, another unique achievement. This has been awarded at T&CPA prize for its innovativeness.

Chaired Arnsdale/Silverdale AONB Partnership for 12 years, a board member/trustee of the National Association of AONBs including three year term as chair. That involved talking to ministers and senior civil servants on subjects like agri-environment schemes, getting the UK to ratify the European Landscape Convention and putting teeth into the CROW act requirement for public bodies to have "due regard" of such designations.