

Nominations received for Vice chair Finance and Vice chair Member Services

Vice Chair (Finance)	Vice Chair (Member Services)
1 vacancy	1 vacancy
Elected	Elected
Peter Davey	Mike Drew

VICE-CHAIR (FINANCE) NOMINATION FORM

Title	Cllr
First name	Peter
Surname	Davey
County association	Essex Association of Local Councils
Council name	Ingatestone and Fryerning Parish Council
Precept	£173,839
Electorate 2020/1	3963

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

As a former CEO of a multimillion pound company my skills set covers all aspects of running a company on a daily basis through my Finance, Property, Personnel and Training, Marketing, Security and Logistics Directors whilst strategically being proactive in creating and updating a 5 year plan. During this period I liaised with institutional Landlords and Investors on a regular basis. **I have therefore applied for the position that will benefit the nalc through my particular skill sets in the chairing of meetings, control of finances and my knowledge of property portfolios. My aspiration is to be the Vice-Chair (Finance) of nalc having been the Chair of the Finance and Scrutiny Committee, a Board Member and a Director of nalc (1994)Ltd for the last 4 years. Through my knowledge and previous experience in operating at this level and above in the past I would be proactive in my support of the Chair whilst offering my depth of experience across the sector as a Board Member. During my tenure as the Chairman of the Finance and Scrutiny committee I have introduced 1. Weekly cash flow analysis 2. Bespoke scrutiny work with our external auditors 3. Meeting cycles put in place to enable a proactive review of the previous quarters accounts together with headline performance figures of the quarter just ended enabling a more accurate year-end forecast to be made. 4. Introduced accountability for budget achievement at Management Service level. 5. Reviewed key governance procedures and implemented due diligence in key financial areas. This position will include my ongoing work on the future of our offices at 109 Great Russell Street having successfully relocated both the EALC and my Parish Council to new bespoke offices in Grt. Dunmow and Ingatestone respectively through my knowledge of property negotiation skills and office assessments.**

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

<p>Experience in leading complex strategic initiatives and cross-functional projects in blue chip companies in funding, MBO, privatization and flotation whilst combining skills in corporate strategy with developing teams to maximize revenues whilst maintaining a meticulous attention to detail.</p> <p>As the Operations Director for Guinness Retail Holdings (GRH) I successfully merged four companies acquired by Guinness into one integrated company using leading edge selection strategies to optimise performance through management and staff efficiency.</p>
<p>I am able to communicate at the highest level, having previously dealt with both institutional investors and Landlords and have complete across the board experience in all aspects of running a company as a CEO. In addition to my roles at the nalc my experience within the voluntary sector is as follows:</p> <p>I have been a Parish Cllr 10 years, Chairman of the EALC 4 years, Director of EA(2013) Ltd.6 yrs. Finance Com. EALC 6 yrs. Chair Personnel Com. EALC, 4 yrs. Chair of the Accreditation Panel for Essex Local Council Awards scheme 7 yrs. Management Board Essex Rural Partnership 6 yrs. Member of the Essex Honours panel Chaired by the Lord Lieutenant of Essex 2 yrs. Member of the Independent Climate Commission of Essex Chaired by Lord Randall 1 yr. Member of the Essex County Council Health and wellbeing Board 4 yrs. Member of the PFCC Rural Crime and Safer Essex committees 4 yrs.</p>
<p>As a directly elected member of the nalc council to ensure that nalc has sound financial control and a strong corporate governance framework whilst scrutinising financial processes including meeting financial and income targets whilst maintaining oversight of the corporate governance framework including risk, contract procedures and general "health checking". My background as a CEO with ultimate responsibility through a Finance Director and Chief Accountant for all aspects of not only finance but also governance, required a particular skill set of being capable of not only possessing the right aptitude to be in control of the company finances but also the ability to Investigate and look forward beyond the day to day operational issues as to where we wanted to be and how we were going to achieve our goal. As the nalc Vice-Chair (Finance) I will constructively continue to challenge current process and 'push the envelope' to ensure that nalc excels in offering proactive, transparent and best value for money guidance to its membership whilst ensuring that nalc's modus operandi is in line with latest thinking and supported by a robust financial process.</p>

VICE-CHAIR (MEMBERS SERVICE) NOMINATION FORM

Title	Cllr
First name	Mike
Surname	Drew
County association	Avon
Council name	Yate TC
Precept	£1.3M
Electorate	17,500

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

As a long serving town councillor, with a long involvement with NALC, I've seen the importance of NALC's services to Town and Parish Councils and the importance of having a voice for us all with central government. In a time of massive change, the importance of top quality advice and support to help us all respond to the needs of our communities has grown.

However the resources available for this work consist of a very small team of hard working members of staff – most part time. So it is crucial we make the most of our resources. As Vice-Chair (Member Services) for the past two years, I have worked with the team to ensure we are sharing best practice, supporting Town Councils, advising on the impact of rapidly changing legislation and lobbying Civil Servants and Ministers to prevent (often unintended) damaging impact on Local Councils and their staff.

I was elected to this role shortly before COVID hit. I am now standing to continue that work of supporting NALC to grow and improve its support to all member Councils as Vice-Chair (Member Services), I am proud of the way the staff adapted and managed to provide quick, high quality support to Councils through such a dramatic period. We now need to build on this to ensure we are a modern, responsive, flexible team able to respond to your needs – for example creating a new website that is going to be much more efficient and user-friendly for councils.

The new ways of working that have emerged through COVID, offer us the opportunity to be even more cost effective and increase the service we are able to provide.

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

In 2019 NALC decided to give specific roles to the Vice-Chairs. I was elected to the position of Vice Chair – Member Services shortly before COVID. The first key achievement is the way we were able, as a team, to quickly rethink how NALC works and what Town and Parish Councils would need when COVID hits. As elected lead for member services I am grateful we were able to empower staff to adapt to new needs from Town and Parish Councils and new ways of working – as elected lead for member services, I am proud of the way the staff adapted and managed to provide quick, high-quality support to Councils through such a dramatic period: and the support and leadership we were able to provide to achieve that.

Introducing cost effective service improvements in the town (and in my career) offer vital experience as we transform NALC services. I have been a Yate Town Councillor (South Gloucestershire) since 1983, and have served as both Mayor of Yate and Chair of South Gloucestershire (and served on the County Council), but the Town Council is the team that has delivered the changes that make a difference for our local residents. I have chaired finance and been on project boards, raising the funding and building a heritage centre, pop inn café for older residents, an award winning youth venue, including community cinema, and most recently raising over £1.5m to improve a town council owned sports facility. Being able to listen to residents, and then work with them to deliver their aspirations for our town is what gets me out of bed!

Showing that parishes can deliver better services more effectively in partnership with the community than the principal authority. For example, I persuaded the principal authority to transfer a Park to the town council to run - in exchange for reduction of Special Expenses Council Tax for the Town. By building a strong Friends Group with residents, the Park now regularly wins awards from eg Britain in Bloom, has people traveling considerable distances to use it - with its very large Adventure Play Area; lake, outdoor gym, and a host of events run by the town council and Friends including an annual 2 day music festival which has been shortlisted for a major community events award. People see the cost effectiveness of parish council activity - and that encourages support for democracy and grass roots government.

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

Whilst many member Councils of NALC are middle sized, it is vital NALC also responds to the different needs of the very small parishes and the large and very large Councils. The changes to the way all member councils are supported that were developed in response to COVID need to be built upon.

We need to use the experience of remote meetings, to have more focused get-togethers, to use technology to develop special interest forums, and advice networks.

These cannot replace the all-purpose physical gatherings, but there is a massive opportunity to develop pop-up forums and networks on topics to bring together expertise and extend the ability of members to share projects and participate in forming NALC policy. The regular meetings of County Officers and NALC staff on zoom has produced greater sharing of expertise and cooperation – we must continue and build on this experience.

The lessons learnt about how to provide rapid, flexible support to members need to be converted into permanent service responsiveness – and the work needs to be extended to include modernising the website to make it more user-friendly.

We need to improve our ability to understand the thinking of Government during the development of policy so that we can influence legislation in advance to make sure that it does not have unintended consequences for our sector. Part of that involves making sure we harness the political connections of our members to gain the understanding and cooperation of MPs, Ministers and Peers to work on our behalf.