



THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT STAFF
COMMISSION FOR NORTHERN IRELAND



Issue 17 | December 2025

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Welcome to December 2025 edition of LGSC Ezine...

The focus of this Ezine is on:

- *Future of the Local Government Staff Commission*
- *Research Programme in partnership with Ulster University on Recruitment and Retention in local government in Northern Ireland*
- *SkillGate e-Learning Training - Neurodiversity in the Workplace Guidance Document*
- *BOOST II Wrap Up Event*

The Commission Members and Staff wish you all a peaceful and Happy Christmas and we look forward to working with you in 2026.

**Bumper Graham,
Chairperson**



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Future of the Local Government Staff Commission...



Formal notification has been received from the Minister for Communities, Gordon Lyons MLA, confirming the Commission's dissolution date of 31 March 2027.

Department for Communities (DfC) officials will now establish a Dissolution Project Board which will review and confirm the current position regarding the transfer of the Commission's existing functions, along with any other matters arising from the dissolution.

Initial engagement with DfC will commence in January 2026. Further information will be provided in due course.



Academic Research Programme in partnership with Ulster University on Recruitment and Retention in local government in Northern Ireland...



Ulster University is undertaking an academic research programme on behalf of the Commission and SOLACE NI. The research aims to generate valuable insights into the current employment landscape in local government in Northern Ireland and assess its impact on Councils as employers. It will also examine key worker shortages and identify potential solutions.

Councils have completed an online survey designed to capture perceptions and realities relating to workforce capacity and skills gaps.

Researchers are now undertaking in-depth case studies with selected Councils to provide detailed, context-specific analysis of workforce capacity challenges and their implications for organisational performance.

This research will help build a deeper understanding of the issues facing local government and support more effective strategic workforce planning across the sector.



SkillGate – e-Learning Training for Neurodiversity in the Workplace - Guidance Document...

In line with the Neurodiversity in the Workplace Guidelines, the Commission is developing a new e-learning module to be hosted on Councils' Skillgate platform.

The training is designed to provide practical guidance for neurodivergent workers, and those who believe they may be neurodivergent, as well as for managers supporting neurodivergent staff.

It is anticipated that the module will be available on Skillgate in January 2026.

For more information, email Paula Hamilton, Senior HR Officer at paula.hamilton@lgsc.org.uk



BOOST II Mentoring Programme - Wrap Up...

The BOOST II Mentoring Programme for Director level mentees launched in January 2025, bringing together 21 mentoring partnerships. The programme comprised 9 mentoring sessions, supported by regular check-ins from the Commission. Feedback from both mentors and mentees has been positive.

To mark the conclusion of the Commission's involvement, a virtual wrap-up session called BOOST II Reflective Practice session will be held for mentees. This session will provide an opportunity for mentees to reflect on their experiences, share insights and learning, and build on best practice. The workshop will take place on Friday, 30 January, and will be facilitated by APSE.

Full details will be shared with all participants in due course.



Contact details for Commission Officers...

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