

For Our Safety We Must:

Save our Services Save our Jobs

Council Jobs and Services Under Threat

Members, not only are we enduring the largest pandemic in a century, we are also facing an ongoing and immediate threat to local services and jobs to Northern Ireland's council workers.

Your Branch Reps are urgently working to defend against these attacks on public services and members livelihoods during this worldwide emergency.

In particular, the recent news release in respect of council employees availing of furlough, highlights the ongoing extent of the pandemic restrictions upon council services and placing employees at risk of redundancy as the ongoing spread of Covid-19 takes hold and local lockdowns rules are applied.

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**Protecting Public Services
Supporting Public Servants**

During the initial response to the pandemic, the UK Government implemented the Job Retention/Furlough Scheme to combat the closure of services that were at risk of spreading Covid-19.

This was a lifeline for councils across Northern Ireland.

However, as the **current ongoing spike in Covid-19** cases continues to restrict the reopening of council services and restricts the number of employees returning to work due to ongoing Covid-19 restrictions with social distancing requirements.

Recent figures show many council employees remain on furlough and risk redundancy as council finances remain in crisis, services restricted and incomes reduced.

NIPSA requires action from the NI Assembly and Councils to reassure employees that their jobs are secure and clearly state **that the furlough can be extended or other new job support schemes will be created to save services and save jobs.**

With the loss of local community services along with leisure and tourism resulting in lost revenue, NIPSA fears the current crisis may result in some councils losing services and members facing redundancy as a means to deal with the ongoing crisis.

NIPSA calls on the Assembly, the Department for Communities and local political representatives to **act now and seek immediate additional funding and resources to secure the local services and jobs** that will be essential for communities to rebuild as we progress through this pandemic.

NIPSA has sought clarity from the NI Assembly, Department for Communities, MLA's and councils to meet and discuss the crisis and to **secure funding to protect local services and jobs.**

NIPSA has requested an **appropriately funded regional approach to any proposed severance schemes** as a safety net for any employees at risk such as that implemented under the Review of Public Administration.

NIPSA therefore calls upon its members in Ards and North Down Borough Council to fully support this campaign, remain vigilant and offer support via your local representatives for the continued fight to Save Local Services and Save Jobs in your area.

To keep up to date offer support or seek further information, contact your NIPSA Branch Secretary **or click the button to visit the:**

