



Northumberland Association of Local Councils

NALC Enews 12 September 2019

Email to Member Councils

The Chairmen and Clerks of Member Councils have been sent the following emails since the previous Enews

[Update for Member Councils](#) - sent 5 September 2019 - this included information on

- A note on data protection fees
- A national Accreditation Panel
- Updates to the national advice and templates for disciplinary and grievance arrangements
- 5G Mobile Phone Masts
- Mental Health at Work

[Details of the Association's AGM](#) - sent 5 September 2019

If your Council has not received a copy of either email, please let me know.

Training

The following events are scheduled over the next few weeks. Please use the appropriate link for more information and booking.

Bookings have increased but there are still places available on the VAT course on 26 September 2019.

If your Council has a significant stream, other than the precept or grants, then it would be worth attending. One commonly held misconception is that the £85k VAT registration threshold applies to Local Councils. It does not and the threshold for our sector is considerably lower.

Details of the VAT course are at

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/introduction-to-vat-for-local-councils-tickets-61630468390>

Other Courses

Briefing/Introduction for new Councillors - Central Northumberland

Pegswood Community Hub | Longhirst Rd | Pegswood NE61 6XF | United Kingdom
 Saturday, 5 October 2019 from 10:00 to 12:00 (BST)

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/briefingintroduction-for-new-councillors-central-northumberland-tickets-50123078477>

Briefing/Introduction for new Councillors - West Northumberland

Tynedale Cricket Club | Priors Flat | Eilansgate | Hexham NE46 3EW | United Kingdom

Tuesday, 8 October 2019 from 19:00 to 21:00 (BST)

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/briefingintroduction-for-new-councillors-west-northumberland-tickets-56897615299>

Briefing/Introduction for new Councillors - North Northumberland

The Glendale Gateway Trust | 12 Padgepool Pl | Wooler NE71 6BL | United Kingdom

Monday, 14 October 2019 from 19:00 to 21:00 (BST)

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/briefingintroduction-for-new-councillors-north-northumberland-tickets-56897761737>

Since I circulated the new national templates last weeks, the national NALC have informed me that further changes have been suggested and revised new models will be issued shortly.

Purdah and the General Election

I have kept well away from commenting on Brexit related issues but it seems possible that a General Election MAY be held at some stage during the autumn.

If and when one is announced, I shall send Member Councils a note on the Purdah rules setting out what is regarded as permissible during the campaign.

If, however, any Member Council would like to discuss the potential issues at any time, please do not hesitate to get in contact.

Overturning Elections

Continuing with an elections theme, colleagues may have seen press reports of the very strange declarations during the polls for our sector in May 2019, thankfully not in our area.

One of the most unusual was for Highworth, Wiltshire where block-counting meant far more votes were declared as cast than permissible. Details are in the link below. There are a number of other challenges around the county but I have not yet seen the outcomes.

<https://localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/governance/396-governance-news/41419-high-court-overturms-election-result-where-wrong-person-elected-report>

Pavement Parking by Cars

The Parliamentary Transport Committee has issued a report which has had some media coverage suggesting that a ban is suggested.

The recommendation is more nuanced as it suggests a nationwide ban in England but with a new process for exempting areas that is less expensive and complicated than those for current Traffic Regulation Orders.

I recall that provision for such a ban was in an Act in the late 1980s but never brought into force and quietly repealed some years later.

It's an aspect of life with no easy solution, especially when many of our communities were not designed for the volume of cars but balanced against the

The report is at the link below but I suspect it will be some time, if ever, before legislation is changed

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmtrans/1982/1982.pdf>

SLCC Training Events

SLCC recently sent their members details of training throughout England and Wales during the rest of this year and into 2020. Details are at

<https://www.slcc.co.uk/events>



If you have any comments or observations, please contact

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or

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