



NALC - UPDATE JULY

From Northumberland Association of Local Councils <info@northumberlandalc.uk>
via mailchimpapp.net

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To NALC Info <info@northumberlandalc.uk>



**Northumberland Association
of Local Councils**



Have your say on the future of our buses

The North East Mayoral Strategic Authority is now consulting on proposals for bus franchising, and this consultation is an important opportunity for people right across our region to have their say before any decision is made.

You can find the consultation here: www.northeast-ca.gov.uk/haveyoursay

Whether you support the proposals, have concerns about them, or simply want to share your experiences of local bus services, your views matter. Good decisions are made when people get involved, and this consultation is an opportunity to make sure the voices of local communities, businesses and organisations are heard.

The consultation will run for 12 weeks and will close at 9am on 28 September 2026. I'm also asking for your help in spreading the word during that time. Please share the consultation with your networks and encourage others to take part. The more people who respond, the stronger our understanding of what people want from bus services in the North East will be.



ENEWS Subscription

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Because of GDPR privacy rules, we are unable to manually update or resubscribe users on their behalf. This means that if you have a new email address, you will need to subscribe again using your updated details.

This process helps protect your personal information and ensures that only you can choose to receive communications from us. Resubscribing only takes a moment and guarantees you continue receiving the latest news, updates, and announcements directly to your inbox.

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ASHINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

Vacancy for Climate, Events and Engagement Manager
LC2 (SCP 29–32) | £39,862 – £42,839 per annum

This is a genuinely interesting and varied post at the heart of the Council's work — and one we have designed with a clear development pathway into the clerking profession for the right person.

You will take lead responsibility for the Council's community services portfolio. This includes:

developing and delivering events, from commissioning and procurement through to contract management, licensing, risk assessment, and post-event evaluation;

leading on community engagement and communications strategy, working closely with our Administration and Communications Officer to connect effectively with residents across all channels;

driving forward on climate action, including project delivery, and budget monitoring; and

providing civic support to the Civic Head and Members and developing partnerships with community and voluntary sector organisations.

Alongside the portfolio, you will gain a grounding in core clerking work — committee administration, governance, and the statutory framework within which town and parish councils operate — with the direct support and mentorship of an experienced Executive Officer.

The Development Pathway

We have designed this post deliberately as a grow-our-own role. Your first twelve months will focus on embedding in the climate, events, and engagement portfolio while learning the foundations of council administration. No sooner than after your first full financial year with us, you will enrol on the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) — fully funded by the Council — with twelve months to complete it. On completion, the grading of the post and any deputising responsibilities will be reviewed.

If you are looking for a structured, supported route into a clerking career in a council with real scope and ambition, this is it.

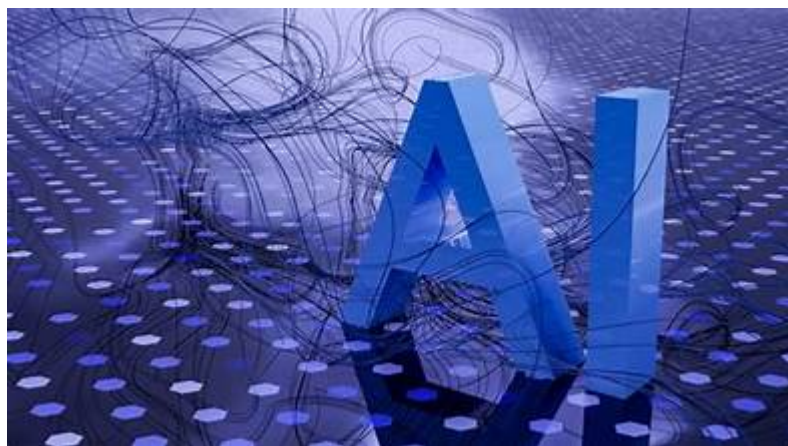
The full job description, with person specification is available by contacting Sarah Eden on sarah.eden@ashingtontowncouncil.gov.uk or via the links below:

[Climate, Events & Engagement Manager](#)

[Climate, Events & Engagement Job Description, with Person Specification](#)

[Application Form \(Word\) \(opens in new window\)](#)

The full advert can be seen [HERE](#)



NALC launches new network to help parish and town councils harness the potential of AI

We have launched our new Artificial Intelligence (AI) Network to support parish and town councils in understanding and using AI in their work.

The new network provides a dedicated space for parish and town councils to explore how AI can support day-to-day activities, improve efficiency, and enhance services for local communities. It will bring together the sector to share experiences, discuss practical applications, and build confidence in using AI responsibly.

The network will focus on real-life use cases, emerging opportunities, and the key considerations that come with adopting AI, including data protection, transparency, governance, and responsible use. Meetings will feature guest speakers, case studies from councils already using AI, and interactive discussions where members can exchange ideas and learn from one another.

As AI continues to develop at pace, the network aims to help parish and town councils understand how the technology can be used safely, effectively, and ethically to support local decision-making and service delivery.

Network members will also have access to an online discussion space where they can share knowledge, ideas, experiences, and useful resources, ask thoughtful questions and seek advice from peers, support collaborative discussion and problem-solving, and contribute practical insights that benefit others across the sector.

Whether parish and town councils are just beginning to explore AI or are already using it in their work, the network offers an opportunity to connect with peers, discover practical approaches, and keep up to date with developments in this rapidly evolving area.

More information [HERE](#)



NALC seeks councillors' views on time off for public duties

We are encouraging working-age (18+) parish and town councillors to complete a survey to help shape our response to the government's consultation on time off for public duties.

People who undertake public duties make a vital contribution to their communities and play an important role in delivering public services. Current legislation gives employees carrying out certain public duties, including councillors, school governors and magistrates, the right to reasonable time off work to help them balance their employment with their public service responsibilities.

The Department for Business and Trade is consulting on potential changes to these provisions, including whether: special constables should become entitled to reasonable time off for public duties, people carrying out eligible public duties with a clear local focus should gain the right to reasonable time off, and people carrying out public duties for national public sector organisations should no longer be entitled to this right, as these roles may not align with the legislation's original locally focused purpose.

The government is not proposing to remove the existing right for councillors to take reasonable time off work for public duties.

If you are a working-age (18+) parish or town councillor, please [complete the survey](#) and share your views. The survey closes on 30 July 2026.



Local authorities must no longer publish members' home addresses

We have been informed by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) that, from 29 June 2026, local authorities must no longer publish the home addresses of elected or co-opted members in their public registers of interests.

This change is intended to help make public office safer and encourage more people to stand for election. Until now, under Section 32 (sensitive interests) of the Localism Act 2011, a member's home address could only be withheld if the authority believed its publication could expose them to violence or intimidation.

The new Section 32A of the Localism Act 2011, inserted by Section 65 of the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act 2026, changes this position. A member's home address must not be included in the authority's public register of interests unless the member specifically requests that it is published.

This requirement also applies to parish and town councils that publish registers of interests on their own websites under Section 29 (7) of the Localism Act 2011.

To maintain transparency, public registers will continue to show that a member has a relevant interest, but the address itself will be withheld. Full address details will still be declared to the monitoring officer, remain available internally to the authority and continue to support the management of potential conflicts of interest.

Councillors and mayors can also continue to apply to their monitoring officer to have other interests, including a second address, treated as sensitive interests if publishing those details could lead to violence or intimidation for them or their family.

The monitoring Officer at NCC made the following comment: As good practice Councillors should review their Declaration of Interests annually.

The information is required to be provided in full on the declaration forms. We will then withhold the fully completed version for our records, but we will ensure all redactions are made before publication.

Going forward, if you could please ensure that the most current version of the form is used, along with the guidance provided.

Details of the change of legislation can be found here; [English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act 2026](#)

Northumberland County Office is only an email away.

Best regards

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