

Contact us

 **Please contact the office on 01673 866596**

- For general enquiries including internal audit and advice, contact either Katrina – Line 1 (or mobile 07422 963475) or Andrew – Line 3 (or mobile 07549 019842). Flexible Monday - Friday
- For general enquiries including website management service, invoices, training booking enquiries, contact Lindsey – Line 2 on Monday, Tuesday, Friday
- For general enquiries including website/portal updates, e-news items, vacancies, contact Elaine – Line 4 on Fridays

Please note that there may be times when the LALC office is not manned, particularly if staff are out training or attending meetings. If you can't get hold of us by phone, please contact us via one of the methods below.



www.lalc.co.uk/contactus



enquiries@lalc.co.uk



Raise a new Enquiry on the portal (login required)

If any Clerks want to join the Clerks' eGroup, or any councillors want to join the Councillor eGroup, contact enquiries@lalc.co.uk.

This fortnightly newsletter is provided to member councils through the clerk and chair and should be circulated to all councillors. This eNews can also be found on the [LALC website](#) under News (LALC News). Other important information which comes up in between eNews publication dates is also shared on the website under News (Our Blog).

Training courses are available to book via the portal (login required)

The Training Bulletin is issued monthly, and courses are available to book via the portal. If there is any specific training which you feel would be valuable, and we don't currently offer it, please let us know and we will investigate. The Training Bulletin can be found on the LALC website www.lalc.co.uk/training-2-1.

Clerks – when booking training for your councillors, **please ensure that their email address is correct**. If not, they will not receive the booking confirmation or any joining instructions. If you have set up your

councillors on the LALC portal, you will be able to select their correct email address from a drop-down list when booking the training.

If you update your council email and are **already** booked on training, please let us know so that we can update your booking to ensure you receive the automatic reminders.

If one of your councillors resigns, and they were booked on LALC training, **please cancel their place**, so that others can book on. Failure to do so may not only deprive other councils from attending but could result in a non-attendance charge (see below).

Please note our **training cancellation policy**:

- For part day courses – please ensure we receive cancellations at least 48 hours in advance
- For full day events – please ensure we receive cancellations at least 5 working days in advance, as we need to pre-order and pay for lunches

Due to persistent non-attendance at booked events, it is unfortunate that LALC have had to amend the way we impose our cancellation fees. All members are charged 50% of the training cost when insufficient notice is received (as above) for non-attendance at training events. No shows will be charged at 100% of the course fee. All charges are regardless of whether the council is a member of the ATS or not.

Current vacancies	Position	Closing date
<u>Fenton and Torksey Lock Parish Council</u>	Clerk/RFO	No closing date
<u>Brookenby Parish Council</u>	Clerk/RFO	No closing date
<u>Bardney Parish Council</u>	Clerk/RFO	No closing date
<u>Folkingham Parish Council</u>	Clerk/RFO	31 st July 2025
<u>Baston Parish Council</u>	Clerk/RFO	30 th September 2025
<u>Foston Parish Council</u>	Clerk/RFO	25 th July 2025
<u>Old Leake Parish Council</u>	Clerk/RFO	11 th August 2025
<u>Sedgebrook Parish Council</u>	Clerk/RFO	28 th August 2025
<u>Grantham Town Council</u>	Assistant Clerk	1 st August 2025
<u>Wilsford Parish Council</u>	Clerk/RFO	31 st October 2025
<u>Silk Willoughby Parish Council</u>	Clerk/RFO	31 st October 2025
<u>Folkingham Parish Council</u>	Clerk/RFO	7 th August 2025
<u>Woodhall Spa Parish Council</u>	Clerk/RFO	28 th August 2025
<u>Toft Newton Parish Council</u>	Clerk/RFO	No closing date
<u>Great Gonerby Parish Council</u>	Clerk/RFO	24 th August 2025
<u>Hogsthorpe Parish Council</u>	Clerk/RFO	26 th August 2025
<u>Langrville Parish Council</u>	Clerk/RFO	No closing date

Vacancy advertising

Find us on  
[@LincsALC](#) & www.lalc.co.uk

*Do you have news to share?
[Get in touch](#) via our website.*

LALC will provide links but is not responsible for the content of external websites.

LALC can advertise your vacancy on our website and in the fortnightly eNews. This is a **free** service. If you do not have a pre-prepared advert to send us, please complete our **Vacancy Template**, which can be found in the Members Portal under Document Templates.

We also offer a **paid** advertising service, which ensures that your advert also appears on Lincolnshire County Council's website, Facebook, and LinkedIn (in addition to the LALC website and eNews). The current fee for this is £80 (this has increased in line with an increase in the LCC fee). Please complete the Vacancy Template (as above), ensuring that all requested information is completed, and then contact us at enquiries@lalc.co.uk. You will be invoiced for this service.

Please note that Lincolnshire County Council require a closing date on their advert, as well as salary information (these are mandatory fields). LCC will remove your advert once the closing date has passed, so please consider the date carefully as you will have to pay again to re-advertise if your vacancy hasn't been filled by then.

We recommend all councils advertise their vacancy, job details, method of application and up to date contact details **on their own website** too.

Please let us know when the vacancy has been filled, so that we can remove it from our website/eNews. If your vacancy has not yet been filled and you are continuing to advertise, please let us know of any revised closing date. **If you no longer specify a closing date, please let us know so that we can update the vacancy adverts.**

The NALC Recruitment Manual (developed as part of the Civility & Respect project) is now available via the portal. Go into Knowledgebase and click on 'Recruitment Manual' in the 'Employment' menu area.

Sign up to the LCC Town and Parishes newsletter – email:

lctownandparishnews@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Latest News

To see the latest NALC news (NALC login required): <https://www.nalc.gov.uk/news>

To see the latest SLCC news (No SLCC login required): <https://www.slcc.co.uk/news-publications/>

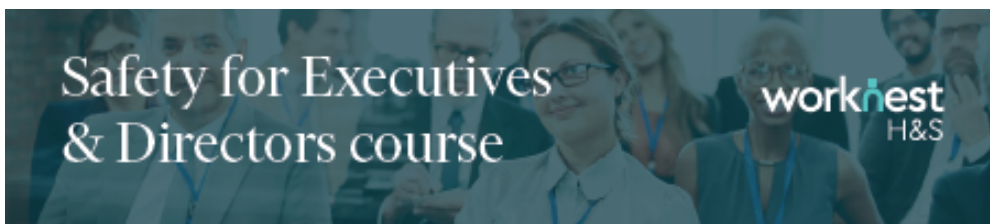
Latest Clear Councils newsletter:

<https://tinyurl.com/2rj9kdkn>

Now available to book: IOSH (Institution of Occupational Safety and Health) Safety training (Safety for Executives & Directors)

When: 14 October 2025, 10:00 – 17:00
Where: Welbourn Village Hall, LN5 0LZ
Cost: £145 plus VAT (includes lunch and refreshments)

Worknest will be delivering this ‘Safety for Executives & Directors’ course.



Do you have overall operational and strategic accountability for an organisation?

If so, are you confident you understand your legal responsibilities when it comes to protecting your employees and others? Our IOSH Safety for Executives & Directors one day course is an excellent demonstration of your commitments to employee wellbeing and will help you minimise risk, ensure compliance and make better use of time and resources.

Learning outcomes

Delegates will emerge with an understanding of:

- The legal, moral and financial role of operational directors, owners of small businesses and senior executives, including their responsibilities, liabilities and accountabilities, both personal and organisational;
- The importance of safety and health at top-management level and how integrating those objectives into other business management objectives can help to minimise risk, reduce losses and make better use of time and resources;
- How to plan the direction for safety and health through developing and implementing a safety and health policy, and integrating it into business systems - explain the value of an adequately resourced and efficient safety and health management system, the value and benefits of training at all levels, and when to access competent advice;
- The benefits of good safety and health management systems, the consequences of failing to manage effectively, and how to ensure internal controls are working;
- The importance of reviewing and continually improving management systems, especially following change or failure;
- The positive impact and improvement that an organisation's leaders can have on its performance through their attitude and support for improving its safety culture; and
- The importance of setting key performance indicators and targets, together with performance monitoring and review for continual improvement in safety and health management.

Course content

The course is broken down into five modules:

- The moral, legal and financial case;
- Plan;
- Do;
- Check; and
- Act.

Business benefits

The course gives an understanding of the moral, legal and business case for proactive safety, health and risk management, and of strategic safety and health management and its integration into holistic business management systems and procedures.

Assessment and certification

Every delegate completing the course will write a three-point action plan representing their personal commitment to implement what they have learned. Commitments should be appropriate for the level of responsibility the delegate has in their organisation. The assessment must be the delegate's own work but can be supported by trainer coaching.


Course tutors

The course will be delivered by a highly qualified, chartered health and safety practitioners.



Venue and duration

The course is delivered over one day and amounts to six hours' tuition. It can be delivered either face to face or Zoom as a remote course.



Who should attend?

The course is designed for senior leaders in any organisation. No previous qualifications or training is required.

Book via the portal in the usual way.

New JADU courses now live

JADU: Agendas/Minutes	Friday 3 rd October 2025, 10:00 – 11:00
JADU: Announcements & News	Friday 10 th October 2025, 10:00 – 11:00

Both sessions will be via Zoom. ATS members free, £15 for non-ATS members.
Book via the portal in the usual way.

Now booking:

Sustainability & Climate Change	Thursday 13 th November, 10:00 – 12:00
Addressing the Biodiversity Crisis	Thursday 27 th November, 10:00 - 12:00

Organised by colleagues from Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Association of Local Councils Ltd (CAPALC), these sessions will be delivered by Mike Deegan Consulting.

Mike Deegan has over 20 years' experience working with a charity and a decade as a councillor with his local parish council. His experience means he knows how to address relevant difficult situations to help find solutions and positive outcomes.

Both sessions will be via Zoom. Non-core training, £35. Book via the portal in the usual way.

SLCC: Let's talk about Changes to Proper Practices for Town & Parish Councils

Claire Reed, Project Manager - Proper Practices from Smaller Authorities Proper Practices Panel (SAPPP) takes a look at the changes to Proper Practices.

Proper Practices (contained in the Practitioners' Guide) are the standards for governance and accounting that must be met by town and parish councils whose income or expenditure does not exceed £6.5m for three consecutive years. They are recognised in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and Smaller Authorities must comply with them.

CIPFA, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy, have been engaged to carry out a review and have identified the following issues in the current Practitioners' Guide:

- There is no guidance on how a council's accounts should be prepared. Some councils may prepare the AGAR form in isolation rather than producing the AGAR from a set of accounts.

- There isn't an explanation of the split between revenue and capital expenditure.
- There is no guidance on how to account for assets which includes property, plant and equipment.
- There is no information on the differences between Receipts & Payments and Income & Expenditure to aid practitioners in preparing their accounts.
- Proper Practices do not currently require councils to produce a balance sheet. A balance sheet provides a snapshot of an organisation's assets and liabilities at a specific point in time and so could be beneficial when describing the council's financial position.

A sector-wide consultation on these issues will be launched in autumn 2025, with the outcome being considered in January 2026.

Read the full article:

<https://www.slcc.co.uk/lets-talk-about-changes-to-proper-practices-for-town-parish-councils/>

NALC Smaller Councils Committee

This committee met on 31 July 2025 at our partner's CCLA offices. It was warmly welcomed by their relationship manager, Lee Jagger. Yorkshire Local Councils Association's chief officer, Sheena Spence, shared that some early work had begun to review national policy documents to make them easier for smaller parish and town councils to use. The committee also thanked her for gathering feedback from county associations about whether their local authorities have parish liaison teams. So far, of the 21 responses, 17 have confirmed they do. The Charity Commission's strategic policy adviser, James Wilkinson, gave a presentation on the rules parish and town councils need to follow when managing assets like village halls. The committee requested that we continue to engage with the government on remote meetings and to work with the Local Government Association and Locality to lobby the government on neighbourhood planning after the recent funding cuts. The committee agreed on essential updates to their terms of reference, and there were updates from the latest Martyn's Law Steering Group meeting.

SLCC: Flood Resilience Survey

ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England) and NALC (National Association of Local Councils) have come together to launch a new survey designed to help parish and town councils enhance their flood resilience. The short survey will capture what information and support parish and town councils need to better plan for flooding.

This initiative supports the Rural Flood Resilience Partnership Work Plan, which aims to help communities plan for flooding.

The survey results are intended to directly shape the development of practical resources tailored to local needs, ensuring that any future resources are genuinely helpful and relevant.

Find us on  
@LincsALC & www.lalc.co.uk

Do you have news to share?
[Get in touch](#) via our website.

LALC will provide links but is not responsible for the content of external websites.

Complete the survey: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/ACRE-NALC-survey-planning-for-flood-resilience/>
Deadline 29th August.

NALC funding request to government

NALC have called on the government to give parish and town councils the right to apply directly for central government funding in our bold proposal to the government's fair funding review. In our response to the government's consultation, we argued that parish and town councils are held back by an outdated and unfair funding system. We urged the government to end double taxation, where residents in parish areas pay council tax but don't receive the same level of services as those in non-parish areas, and to ensure fair and consistent funding wherever local services are devolved to parish and town councils.

Read the full response (NALC login required): <https://tinyurl.com/ynjr9nmu>

SLCC: Updated Register to Vote: Easy Read Form

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has released an updated version of the Register to Vote: Easy Read form.

This step-by-step guide is specifically designed to support individuals with learning disabilities in registering to vote independently and confidently.

Access the forms: <https://tinyurl.com/2rj9kdkn>

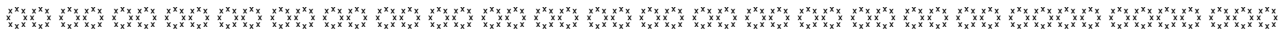
NALC calls for a stronger role for parish and town councils in local government reorganisation

NALC have called for parish and town councils and county associations to have a stronger role in local government reorganisation.

In response to the government's consultation on proposals for local government reorganisation in Surrey, NALC:

- Stressed that parish and town councils and county associations must be involved from the very start of the process to create new unitary authorities, with county associations being full members of the Joint Implementation Team establishing any new unitary authority.
- Called for the creation of new parish and town councils in currently unparished areas and the abolition of existing Charter Trustees.

- Urged early consultation with parish and town councils whenever assets or services are at risk of withdrawal, allowing communities to take them on. We emphasised that any transfer of responsibilities must be backed by adequate funding, such as access to the Community Infrastructure Levy.
- Called for the government to consider proposals from the Surrey Association of Local Councils on structural recommendations between parish and town councils and new unitary authorities, and between parish and town councils and area committees.



Have your say on West Lindsey’s Budget for 2026–2027

West Lindsey District Council is inviting residents, businesses, and community members to share their views as part of the budget-setting process for the 2025 - 2026 financial year.

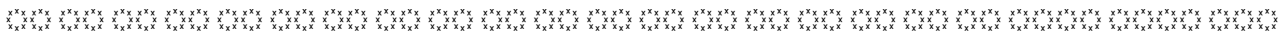
Every year, the Council must agree a balanced budget - ensuring income matches expenditure. This task has become increasingly challenging over the past decade due to significant reductions in government funding.

Take part in the consultation by completing the online survey Budget Consultation 2025:
<https://tinyurl.com/mrfk4wax>

Alternatively attend one of the following in-person events:

- Tuesday 19 August – Gainsborough Market (9am–2pm)
- Tuesday 2 September – Market Rasen Market (9am–2pm)
- Tuesday 9 September – Council Chamber, Guildhall, Gainsborough (6–8pm)

The consultation closes at 9am on Monday 15 September 2025. For any questions or queries, please contact: engagement@west-lindsey.gov.uk



NK Community Champion Awards 2025 launched

Do you know someone who’s making a difference within the community of North Kesteven through their kind consideration and voluntary endeavour? And have you always thought ‘they deserve a medal’ for what they do?

The next best thing is an NK Community Champion Award, backed by community-minded businesses within the District and co-ordinated by North Kesteven District Council.

Across 11 categories, this year we’re looking to champion:

- Community spirit
- Young Achievers

- Community Businesses
- Contributions to climate action, arts & culture, sport, a better environment and health & wellbeing
- Good neighbours
- Longstanding contributions to a single group or organisation

And there's a new category this year to complement Council Chair Cllr Chris Goldson's charitable theme to celebrate Contribution to Animal Welfare.

Nominations can be made at www.NKawards.org where there is more detail or using the form:
<https://tinyurl.com/3rmwca9p>

Deadline is 12pm on September 16.

LALC Advice: Can we stop maintaining a council website and just use a Facebook Page and other social media?

LALC has received enquiries about councils moving away from a website to just using a social media page such as on Facebook. Parish and Town Councils **MUST** maintain a website. Facebook and other social media sites are not a substitute.

Why a Parish / Town Council Must Have a Website ... and why Facebook isn't enough

While using a Facebook page can be helpful for community engagement, it **does not meet legal requirements**. **All parish councils** — whether large or small — are **statutorily required** to have a publicly accessible website for publishing key financial and governance information.

Legal Requirements for Smaller Authorities (Under £25,000)

Parish councils with **gross annual income or expenditure below £25,000** must comply with the:

- **Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014**
- **Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015**
- **Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities 2015**
- **Localism Act 2011**
- **Freedom of Information Act 2000**

These require certain documents to be **published on a publicly accessible website**. This includes:

- Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) – Sections 1, 2, and the Certificate of Exemption (if signed).
- Internal audit report
- Explanation of significant variances
- Bank reconciliation
- Notice of the period for the exercise of public rights
- List of councillors and their responsibilities

Rural Services Network: Digital Shift Could Deepen Inequality

New analysis from Age UK has found that 2.4 million older people in the UK — nearly one in five (19%) — have limited use of the internet, going online less than once a month or not at all.

The charity warns that a “digital by default” approach to essential services risks excluding millions, especially without a clear, enforceable guarantee that offline options will always be available. It is calling on the Government to ensure that in-person and assisted digital support remains in place for services such as NHS appointments, Blue Badge applications, and council services.

The figures show that some groups are even more likely to have limited internet use — rising to 32% for older Black people, 30% for those living alone, 26% for older Asian people, and 22% for older women and those struggling financially.

In the past year, 920,000 older people (7%) have reduced their internet use, reinforcing earlier Age UK research showing that some who go online do not always stay there in later life. In addition:

- 6 million (12%) older people do not use a mobile phone at all.
- 3 million (33%) do not use a smartphone.
- 4 million (31%) say poor IT skills keep them offline.
- 9 million (22%) say a lack of trust in the internet is a barrier.

Age UK has delivered a 173,949-signature petition to 10 Downing Street, highlighting the everyday struggles some older people face when key services are only available digitally. Some told the charity they feel belittled or pressured into going online, while others spoke of being unable to arrange GP appointments or manage essential tasks.

Read more: <https://rsnonline.org.uk/digital-shift-could-deepen-inequality>

NALC meeting with Reform UK

As a recognised political group within the Local Government Association, we met with Reform UK's deputy chair, Paul Nuttall, and director of local government, Jaymey McIvor. We briefed them on the work we and county associations do, the current state of the parish and town council sector and the process for establishing new councils. We also highlighted the importance of training for newly elected councillors. They expressed strong support for parish and town councils and emphasised the need for upper-tier administrations to work closely with parish and town councils and county associations. Reform UK currently form administrations in around 12 upper-tier councils following May's local elections and holds an estimated 120 seats on parish and town councils.