

Newsletter – April 2022

Derbyshire Association of Local Councils



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1 – Our DALC survey needs you!

Please spend a few minutes completing our 2022 DALC survey of members... it will help us refine the service we offer, and plan for the future. The [survey can be found here](#) – it won't take long to complete, we promise!

2 - DALC Excellence Awards – entries are now open!

Now in their fifth year, the 2022 DALC Excellence Awards are now open to entries! Featuring the categories of Council, Councillor and Clerk of the Year – sponsored once again by BHIB Insurance, CCLA and Blachere Illuminations UK respectively – the awards have continued to grow each year, with nominations from around the county. So – if you have an amazing clerk, a brilliant councillor(s!), or think you deserve a collective nomination as a super council, send in an entry... the [entry form can be found here](#).

3 – DALC’s Spring Seminar springs back!

Delegates from a range of our member councils enjoyed hearing from seven specialist speakers at the DALC Spring Seminar at the beginning of the month, held at Chesterfield FC’s Technique Stadium. It was our first ‘live’ event since the 2020 seminar held just before lockdown, and once again the venue proved an excellent host. Speaker topics included rewilding, community wellbeing, councillor diversity, and highways issues, plus a very well-received presentation from Cllr Jane Osborne of Hatton PC on the community projects featured in their DALC ‘Council of the Year’ winning nomination. A Dropbox link giving access to all the speaker presentation slides shown during the seminar [can be found here](#).

4 – Free training for your community’s wellbeing

As promised, DALC seminar speaker James Creaghan, mental health lead at DCC, has sent us links to a range of [FREE training courses](#) centred on mental health and well-being. There are also links to suicide bereavement courses on [August 5th](#) and [September 1st](#).

5 – What do civility and respect mean to you?

As part of the ongoing Civility and Respect Project’s campaign for better behaviour in the local council sector, NALC have asked for video-clip submissions from clerks and councillors. Full details are available [at this link](#), but essentially NALC is asking for 10-second clips featuring “one sentence about what civility and respect mean to you”, which will then be edited into the project’s showcase video.

6 – Too small to make a difference? Think again...

Despite over 25% of local councils believing they weren’t big enough to make a difference to climate change, a new report has highlighted the value of “small actions”. The report, from local council [thinktank New Local](#), says there’s “a need to think of climate change as a series of local problems, rather than one single global issue. By taking on small actions communities that work together can bring about significant change overall.”

To hear more about how local councils can take action, including examples of work in progress, [sign up here for NALC’s ‘Fighting Climate Change’ seminar](#) on May 25th, 1200-1315.

7 – New practitioners’ guide now uploaded

Aimed at helping councils with managing their finances, their AGAR returns and audits, the latest Practitioners' Guide for the 2022-23 financial year is [now available on the DALC website at this link](#). The guide, produced by the Joint Panel on Accountability and Governance, includes a major re-write of section 5 on the non-statutory guidance for clerks and RFOs.

To hear more about how local councils can take action, including examples of work in progress, [sign up here for NALC's 'Fighting Climate Change' seminar](#) on May 25th, 1200-1315.

8 – Citizens in need... call for CA trustees

A call has gone out for new volunteer trustees to sit on the board of Derbyshire's Citizens Advice. Involving a few hours commitment per month, the role includes helping develop the service and secure resources. Says a CA spokesperson: "Our board comes from many different backgrounds. What they all share is a passion for representing the local community and the diversity of clients who benefit from our free and impartial advice." [More details can be found here](#) – applications close on May 3rd, and interviews will be held in late May.

9 – Subs now due

All member councils should now have received a reminder about their DALC subscription. Remember, if your council signs up for enhanced membership it qualifies for 3 *free* places on all of our [10 enhanced training courses](#).

10 - [New legal topic note on sustainable energy and electric vehicle charging](#)

11 – Police Liaison Forum invite

Our next Police Liaison Forum meeting is on Wednesday 27th April at 2pm. Details are as follows:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89308170719?pwd=VjJuQjlyOVZFQVNFZ0tSbG9ZU1VKUT09>

Meeting ID: 893 0817 0719

Passcode: 730810

One tap mobile

+442034815240,,89308170719#,,,,*730810# United Kingdom

+442039017895,,89308170719#,,,,*730810# United Kingdom

Meeting ID: 893 0817 0719

Passcode: 730810

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcfyCYsBKC>

12 – Upcoming training...

April 26 – Basic Tree Survey & Inspection

April 28 – Finance for Councillors

April 27 – The role of Internal Audit

May 3 – Transparency & Publication for Small Councils under 25k

May 4 – VAT for unregistered councils

May 5 – Internal Controls

May 10 – Role of Internal Audit

May 11 – Councillor Code of Conduct

May 12 – Resilience, Wellbeing and Mental Health

May 16/17 – Clerk Essentials 1&2

May 17 – Councillor Essentials

May 18 – Finance for Councillors

May 19 – Transparency and publication for Small Councils under 25k

May 23 – Chair Skills

May 24 – Finance for Councillors

May 25 – Cyber Training

May 26 – Understanding Planning

May 26 – VAT for VAT-registered councils

May 27 – CiLCA Intro

June 7 – Transparency and publication for small councils under 25k

June 14 – VAT for unregistered councils

June 14 – Finance for Councillors

June 16 – Role of Internal Audit

June 20 – Internal Auditor Training

June 27 – Cllr Essentials and clerks forum

Best regards

Wendy Amis

Chief Officer

All course details and online booking info can be found on the [DALC website here](#).

Best regards,

Wendy Amis, DALC Chief Officer