

Newsletter – February 2022

Derbyshire Association of Local Councils



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1 – Crime after Covid

Despite a decrease in offences such as theft, the Covid pandemic showed an increase in fraud and online offences. Now, as communities begin a return to 'normal', a NALC online event will discuss ways that parish and town councils can work with Police & Crime Commissioners and make efficient use of their existing powers and funding to tackle post-pandemic crime. [More details of the event, on March 30th, can be found here.](#) NB – on April 5th, delegates will have the chance to hear Derbyshire's PCC, Angelique Forster, at the DALC Spring Seminar – more details in item 5 below.

2 – Is your group on the list? County climate groups by district

From 'Acclimatise Whaley' in the High Peak to Whistlewood Common in the south, it seems our climate emergency action groups are very much alive and thriving. Now our climate action partners [MEA have compiled a county-wide list of groups](#) - including websites and contact details – but they're keen to hear if any have been missed? Check the list, and contact shital@mea.org.uk if your group needs to be added.

3 – DALC Spring Seminar – online booking now open

As mentioned in item 1, there'll be a chance to hear Angelique Forster, Derbyshire's own PCC, at our Spring Seminar on April 5th at the ProAct Stadium in Chesterfield, plus a Q&A session afterwards. Other expert speakers will cover areas including highways, re-wilding, post-Covid well-being in the community, and diversity. Delegate places are £55, and include an excellent buffet lunch and the chance to chat to fellow councillors and clerks. [Places can be booked online here](#), or contact us at admin@derbyshirealc.gov.uk – we look forward to seeing you in April, and would really appreciate your support for this first 'live' event of 2022.

4 – Section 137 figure announced

The Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities has advised that the appropriate sum for the purpose of section 137(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 (the 1972 Act) for parish and town councils in England for 2022-23 is £8.82.

Up from £8.41, the new figure reflects the percentage increase in the retail index between September 2020 and September 2021, in accordance with Schedule 12B to the 1072 Act.

5 – Levelling up – what does it mean for us?

As councils across the UK digest the Government's 'Levelling Up' White Paper, published on February 2nd, NALC chair Keith Stevens welcomed it as a "positive first step down the long road to... empowering local communities." [The Government's press release can be read here](#), the [LGA response here](#), and the [full NALC statement here](#).

6 – New DALC training & advice manager

We're delighted to welcome Nicki Senior to DALC as our new Training & Advice Manager. Nicki, a former parish council clerk, has been developing training programmes and CPD in the education and charity sector for over 15 years, and has a background in Social Policy. Nicki says: 'I'm looking forward to meeting as many members as possible in the coming months, and, of course, helping councillors develop skills that support their councils and communities.'

7 – Get lobbying... and get your voice heard!

Lobby Day is back! NALC has announced that this year's Lobby Day will take place on March 23rd. This is a great opportunity for your council to develop, or strengthen, your relationship with your MP. It also offers the chance to highlight the important work done by local councils, as well as pursue topics such as remote meetings, climate change and standards in public life.

NALC has developed resources to help you take part in this event and we at DALC would love to hear what your plans are and, if necessary, co-ordinate joint meetings with MPs. Once you have decided on the issues you are taking to your MP, drop Nicki a line to let her know what these are and, importantly, what response you get!

Lobbying templates are available here: [Lobby Day 2022 resources](#)

Contact Nicki on training@derbyshirealc.gov.uk

8 – Getting it right... internal audit checklist

As year-end approaches, we've uploaded a new checklist to the DALC website covering all aspects of internal audit. Ranging from your council's risk management procedures to its governance arrangements, the checklist will help you and your auditor measure the council's performance and identify areas for improvement. More information can be found in the [Good Councillor's Guide to Finance and Transparency](#), the [model regulations here](#), and also (mainly for clerks), in [the Practitioner's Guide](#).

9 – Current Consultations

		Closing date
DEFRA	Landscapes review (National Parks and AONBs): implementing the review	9 th April
DLUHC	Reforming the leasehold and commonhold systems in England and Wales	22 nd February
DEFRA	Single-use plastic: banning the supply of commonly littered single-use plastic items	12 th February
DBEIS	Enabling or requiring hydrogen-ready industrial boiler equipment: call for evidence	14 th March
DDCMS	New build developments consultation: delivering gigabit-capable connections	28 th February
DLUHC	Business Rates Review: technical consultation	22 nd February

10 – Latest digital vat return update

Our finance partners Parkinson have just released their latest update on MTD (Making Tax Digital). [The update can be found here.](#)

11 – Procurement thresholds increase

From January 1st, procurement thresholds increased for public contracts – [full details can be found in this document.](#)

12 – DALC Clerk & Chair forums – invites and agenda – NEXT TUESDAY!

Discussion topics:

Queen’s jubilee celebrations – sharing ideas across councils

Use of the clerk’s report – what to include (or not!)

Annual Meeting of the Parish – the legislation and possibilities to utilise this time for community engagement

Survey of members – what information would be useful across councils eg how many councils have general power of competence, how many councils have declared a climate emergency etc

PLUS any other questions you may have – happy for you to bring them along or send to add to the agenda.

Topic: DALC Clerks' forum TUESDAY 15TH FEBRUARY 2022

Time: Feb 15, 2022 1:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81896082244?pwd=NG9kUFRFeGdySnVPWERIa3phOWIEUT09>

Meeting ID: 818 9608 2244

Passcode: 091010

One tap mobile

+442039017895,,81896082244#,,,,*091010# United Kingdom

Topic: DALC Chairs' forum TUESDAY 15TH FEBRUARY 2022

Time: Feb 15, 2022 2:30 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81837497441?pwd=cGVjb1BCUWgxN0ozaXJhQ29ka0QzUT09>

Meeting ID: 818 3749 7441

Passcode: 041196

One tap mobile

+441314601196,,81837497441#,,,,*041196# United Kingdom

13 – Upcoming training courses

Mar 8 – [Grant Funding](#)

Mar 9 – [Emergency 1st Aid At Work \(full day\)](#)

Mar 15 – [Survey & Tree Inspection Training](#)

Best regards,

Wendy Amis, Chief Officer