

Newsletter – March 2022

Derbyshire Association of Local Councils



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1 – Solidarity with Ukraine – add your name

A statement strongly condemning the invasion of Ukraine has been issued by CEMR (Council of European Municipalities and Regions), and has been endorsed by NALC. The [full statement can be read here](#), along with a full list of signatories – plus the opportunity to add your name.

2 – Pay award finally agreed

A pay increase of 1.75% has been agreed by the NJC, backdated to April 1st 2021. The NJC also agreed to recommence the review of Term-Time Only working arrangements, which was paused at the outbreak of the pandemic, as well as starting discussions on homeworking policies, mental health support and maternity leave.

3 – Remote meetings – the campaign continues

Testimonies from parish and town councils are being sought as part of the ongoing NALC campaign to allow virtual and hybrid meetings to take place. Campaigners want to hear about the difficulties of setting budgets through this winter's wave of Covid-19, and will use this evidence to lobby Government. Your council's experiences can be sent to policycomms@nalc.gov.uk, while a [model motion for your council can be found here](#), and the current petition (nearing 11,000 signatures) [can be found here](#).

4 – Young councillors of the UK unite!

In common with every other county, Derbyshire's councillor age demographic tends towards, let's say, the 'more mature' end of the spectrum. But also, just like every other county, we also have some inspirational and diligent younger councillors who are making a real difference in the communities they represent. NALC's Young Councillors Network offers a chance to connect with other young representatives across the UK, sharing learning and good practice, offering mutual support, and getting involved in campaigning work. You can join the network (and others co-ordinated by NALC) [via this link](#).

5 – Don't miss out – lobby day approaches

As March 23rd approaches, don't miss the chance to lobby your MP on issues close to your council's heart – whether it's remote meetings, climate change or standards in public life. It also offers the opportunity to develop or strengthen ties with your MP, as well as highlight the importance of work done by local councils. A link to resources including [lobby templates is available here](#), and please remember that we'd love to hear about your lobbying ideas and, importantly, what response you get! Get in touch with Nicki at training@derbyshirealc.gov.uk.

6 – Spring Seminar speaker line-up announced

Angelique Forster, Derbyshire's Police & Crime Commissioner, is among the speakers at our 'live' Spring Seminar next month. She'll also be available for Q&A with delegates after her presentation, which forms part of the morning session at Chesterfield FC's Technique Stadium on April 5th. In addition, we'll hear from experts on re-wilding, post-Covid well-being (including the winners of DALC's Council of the Year for their health initiatives in the village of Hatton), the challenges of attracting younger councillor candidates, advice on fuel poverty support, and the latest news from the county's highways department. Included in the £55 delegate fee is a delicious lunch and – of course – the DALC quiz (!), so hurry while places last! Book [via this link](#), or drop us an email.

7 – Coming up next – DALC training courses

We still have a handful of places on three of our most popular training courses this month:

March 22 – Chair Skills

March 28/29 – Clerk Essentials

March 30 – Understanding Planning

To view details and booking arrangements for all three, [go to this link](#).

8 – Restoring your Resilience

At a time when we could probably all use a little more resilience, we hope this new training course will help. Led by Joe Cheal, it covers the challenges of work-life balance as well as strategies to handle pressure, change and uncertainty. More details [can be found on the DALC website here](#).

9 – Charity Law & ‘Active’ speed signs – LTN updates

Advice on why councils which are sole trustees should set up a committee, governed by charity law, is outlined in a [detailed new LTN](#) released by NALC. In addition, guidance on the use of CCTV and vehicle activated speed signs is [offered in a LTN here](#).

10 – Handling council conflict – the view from HR

Although conflict between councillors and staff is, sadly, nothing new, the legal framework within which councils need to address such issues is relatively recent. Our HR expert Chris Moses has outlined the legal principles in a newly released document which can be found on the [DALC website here](#).

11 – Clerk & Chair Forums links – plus a NEW (evening) clerk forum slot!

Topic: DALC - Clerks' forum Monday 14th March 2022, 1.00pm

Time: Mar 14, 2022 1:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81434518506?pwd=bUtDa0pNRXNOUi9qQUwT2ZzcEJEZz09>

Meeting ID: 814 3451 8506

Passcode: 219086

One tap mobile: 02034815240,,81434518506#,,,,*219086# United Kingdom

Topics include:

- Role of internal audit
- Report writing guidelines
- Good Recruitment practice
- Making tax digital

Plus anything you want to ask about!

Topic: DALC - Chairs' forum Monday 14th March, 2.30pm

Time: Mar 14, 2022 2:30 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88367176288?pwd=Z2I2aURRb2FyenJHQXNXLy9TTkRvZz09> Meeting ID: 883 6717 6288

Passcode: 646658

One tap mobile: 02034815237,,88367176288#,,,,*646658# United Kingdom

NEW! Clerks' forum - on Tuesday evening for those unable to attend on Monday afternoon

Topic: DALC - Clerks' Forum (2) Tuesday 15th February 6.30pm

Time: Mar 15, 2022 6:30 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87378827051?pwd=T2N5MFBFc24rOExTTnJPeTVUVnVmUT09>

Meeting ID: 873 7882 7051

Passcode: 266826

One tap mobile: 02034815240,,87378827051#,,,,*266826# United Kingdom

Topics include:

- Role of internal audit
- Report writing guidelines
- Good Recruitment practice
- Making tax digital

Plus anything you want to ask about!

Best regards,

Wendy Amis, Chief Officer