



Northumberland Association of Local Councils

Dear Colleagues,

**County Committee**

There will be an electronic meeting of the County Committee on Friday 11 June 2021 at 10.00 am

The ZOOM link is in the accompanying email

Yours sincerely

**Stephen Rickitt**

**NALC Chief Officer**

3 June 2021

**AGENDA**

**1: Welcome**

The Chairman will open the meeting.

**2: Committee Membership and Appointments**

To consider the candidates for formal co-option as listed in the attached report

**3: Introductions**

To enable the new of the Committee to introduce themselves

**4: Apologies for Absence**

The Chief Officer will give details of any apologies received. Members of the Committee are reminded that if they are unable to attend, a substitute is welcome but please let the Chief Officer know so that they may be admitted to the meeting.

**5: Planning in Northumberland**

Rob Murfin, the County Council's Director of Planning, will join the meeting at about 10.30 pm as he would like to discuss the concept of a "concordat" with Northumberland's Parish, Town, and Community Councils. This will enable Members of the Committee to give high-level feedback. If a concordat is pursued, then it is

recommended that a small group of Members work on a more detailed draft before further discussion at this Committee.

#### 6: Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 April 2021

To agree the draft minutes as a true record

#### 7: Matters arising, including:

- a) Election Recharges – nothing further has been received from the County Council at the date of drafting this agenda
- b) Election analysis – an analysis of the Northumberland Local Council elections will follow. All four councils who were inquorate now have enough Members to be quorate.
- c) Local Democracy Reporter
- d) The Association’s AGM – contact has been made with the Lord Lieutenant’s Office
- e) Digital Meetings – to consider the draft response to the MHCLG’s consultation [attached]

#### 8: The Briefing Programme 2021

By the time of the meeting, two sessions will have been held following Northumberland’s Elections. Figures are as at 0900 3 June 2021.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Numbers Booked as at 1 June</b>	<b>Numbers attended</b>
8 February	Social Media	18	17
11 February	Safeguarding	7	7
17 February	General Introduction	11	11
11 March	Preparing for Audit	5	4
7 April	The Annual Meetings	14	12 (one was a double booking made in error)
26 May	General Introduction	29	29
5 June (Sat morning)	General Introduction	9	
22 June	Budgets etc.	30	
30 June	Intro. To Planning	24	
5 July	Chairing smaller councils	11	
19 July	Highways and Public Rights of Way	21	

In addition, four Local Councils arranged requested bespoke briefings for their Councils and staff with further such sessions being arranged by other Councils.

## 9: Finance

To note the attached report

## 10: Issues raised by Committee Members

This is the opportunity for Committee Members to raise matters which may be of general interest affecting Local Councils in Newcastle and Northumberland.

## 11: National Issues

Cllr David Francis (Newton on the Moor & Swarland PC) is the Association's representative on the national NALC where he chairs the Policy Committee and sits on their Management Board. He will update the Committee on major national issues. His report will be supplemented by the Chief Officer who meets with his counterparts every fortnight (or so) and also sits on the national Smaller Councils Committee in his capacity as the clerk to Meldon PC.

## 12: Future Meetings of the Committee

It is recommended that the next meeting is held on Friday 23 July at 1000 by Zoom.

Although the constitution allows Cllr Alex Wallace to continue as the County Committee Chairman until the meeting following the Association's AGM in the autumn, is it the wish of the County Committee for him to continue until then or would they prefer to elect a chairman at the next meeting in July?

In addition, it is envisaged that a report will be brought to the Committee to enable a discussion on the future format of meetings, including whether they should be digital or face-to-face and what day and time is preferred.