



Northumberland Association of Local Councils

Business Plan 2018-2023

SUMMARY

A: This is a five-year business plan being presented for approval at the AGM in October 2017.

B: It sets out the themes and targets for the Association over the next five years.

C: The Plan will be managed by the County Committee and reviewed annually by the Association's AGM

MISSION STATEMENT

NALC promotes the interests of parish, community and town councils and provides specialist training, advice and other support to its members

THE OBJECTS OF THE ASSOCIATION

(Taken from the 2014 Constitution)

The aims and objects of the Association are to take all such steps as may be necessary or desirable in the interest of parishes, and in particular:

- (i) to protect and promote the interests, rights, functions, and privileges of members;
- (ii) to assist members in the performance of their duties and to promote and develop the economic, social, cultural and recreational life of parishes;
- (iii) to promote a widespread and well-informed interest in local government;
- (iv) to promote good local government.

BACKGROUND

1: NALC is one of about forty county associations of local councils in England, which together form the National Association. 'Local Council' includes parish, town, neighbourhood, community and village councils of which there are 162 in our area (Northumberland and Newcastle). All but seven are members of our Association with

As approved OCT 2017 AGM with extra

another seven having no members and which may be dissolved. NALC was formed in 1946 and, since 1951, has received administrative and professional support from CAN (Community Action Northumberland), thus sharing our 'overhead' costs, and reducing duplication in the provision of our seamless advisory work to support local communities.

2: The Association's 2015 agreement with CAN provides 20 hours per week work from the NALC Chief Officer, with some admin and financial support. There are no directly employed staff.

3: The County Committee meets six times a year (generally every two months) and supervises the work of the NALC Chief Officer.

RESOURCES

4: The nett subscription income from members is around £30,000 per year, after payment of the affiliation fee to the national NALC. There is a modest amount of income from training, which in 2016/2017 produced approximately £100 of nett income. This figure was supplemented in 2015/2016, 2016/2017 and 2017/2018 by funding from the Transparency Fund which enabled training to be provided at no cost to Members. This funding is not available for FYs 2018/2019 onwards.

5: The Association has historically kept subscriptions as low as possible and uses training fees as a method of ensuring attendance.

6: Most Local Councils within the Association do not have separate training provision within their budgets.

7: The Association recognises the increasing demand and pressure upon Member Council's Budgets and consider there is little scope for raising subscription levels and training fees above the rate of inflation.

8: The nett subscription income is almost entirely used in funding CAN for the services provided, principally the NALC Chief Officer.

CHALLENGES

9: The key challenge and risk is a drop in membership income, especially if one of the larger Members were to leave the Association.

10: The cessation of funding from the County Council some years ago, and the end of the Transparency Fund, taken with the general reduction in grant funding means that there is no realistic area for expansion unless there is a significant increase in paid-for training.

TARGETS FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS (Year means 1 April – 31 March)

Objective	Aim	Target
1. To protect and promote the interests, rights, functions, and privileges of members	A. To work at all levels of the public, private and voluntary sectors to promote the work of Local Councils	A: To run or participate in at least one event per year promoting Local Councils
2. To assist members in the performance of their duties and to promote and develop the economic, social, cultural and recreational life of parishes	<p>B. To provide advice to Member Councils in a professional and timely manner</p> <p>C. To provide and facilitate training for Member Councils</p> <p>D. To provide regular information to Member Councils</p>	<p>B: To avoid any complaints about delays. The administrative systems do not allow for a target time.</p> <p>C: To offer at least ten training events for members</p> <p>D: To continue to distribute at least 40 issues of the Weekly Enews</p>
3. To promote a widespread and well-informed interest in local government	E. To support Local Councils in their work with their communities	E: - The same target as in A above
4. To promote good local government	F. To encourage and support Member Councils' work in drawing attention to their work	F: To have at least one Member Council enter the national Star Council awards each year
5. To encourage the formation of new councils	G. To seek at least one new local council in both Newcastle and North Tyneside	<p>Gi. To hold awareness raising events in Newcastle and North Tyneside by 31 December 2018</p> <p>Gii. To have at least one new local Council established in both Newcastle and North Tyneside by 31 December 2022</p>