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Northumberland Association of Local Councils

**NALC Enews
21 May 2020
Please forward to all Councillors and Staff**

Emails to Member Councils

On Wednesday 20 May, we sent an email to clerks on behalf of the local SLCC branch.

Coronavirus Information

The following sources of information are available

The national NALC

<http://www.nalc.gov.uk>.

The Govt's Coronavirus page

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

The Health & Safety Executive

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/index.htm>

The City Council

<http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/coronavirus>

The County Council

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/coronavirus.aspx>

Community Action Northumberland

<http://ca-north.org.uk/supporting-individuals/covid-19>

Office for National Statistics

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases>

Briefings

The following events are scheduled over the next few weeks. Please use the appropriate link for more information and booking.

[Copy of General Introduction to Local Council Procedure](#)

Tue, 26 May 2020 19:00 (No charge)

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/copy-of-general-introduction-to-local-council-procedure-tickets-103312993946>

There is also an Introduction to Electronic Meetings tonight (Thursday 21 May) at 7.00 pm. Eventbrite bookings have now closed but if you would like to attend, please email info@northumberlandalc.uk - before noon if possible

We hope to arrange further electronic briefings during June and July.

Vacancy for a Clerk

Rennington Parish Council are seeking a new clerk. Details at the link below.

https://mcusercontent.com/5060a2022e1081d67bbdd9b3a/files/a3a8b8cf-8c46-4d20-a18b-33084e05f34c/Vacancy_for_Parish_Council_Clerk_Rennington.docx

The Newcastle & Northumberland Local Council of the Year 2020

We are repeating the challenge again this year, particularly with all the excellent work being done during the current National Emergency.

We are anxious that good practice is recorded and shared, as well as being rewarded. Too often Local Councils are the subject of adverse comments and this is one way of redressing the balance.

The closing date is 30 September 2020.

There is no set format but please use email to set out your entry, and/or to attach further information. You should say why you consider your Council should be the Council of the Year.

The process is set out below

- A. Invitations are invited
- B. A panel of five is convened from members of the Committee, excluding any Councillor who is a member of one of the candidate Councils
- C. That the Panel awards Gold, Silver and Bronze prizes by 31 October 2020
- D. A modest trophy is given to each Council, being presented at one of their meetings by a senior member of the Committee
- E. Every Entry is given a certificate

Rural Community Energy Fund

Rural communities can apply for up to £140,000 in funding to support renewable energy projects.

The Rural Community Energy Fund (RCEF) offers grants to help cover the costs of professional fees and consultancy when investigating whether a project is viable, and for creating a full business case to take projects forward. Examples of the types of technologies that can be used in renewable energy projects include solar panels, wind turbines, hydropower and heat pumps.

Parish and town councils are eligible for funding. To find out more about the RCEF, contact Josh Sawyer, the North East Local Enterprise Partnership's Rural Energy Officer, on josh.sawyer@nelep.co.uk or 07584 154510.

Local Govt. Pension Scheme

The statutory instrument merging the Northumberland and Tyne & Wear schemes has now been made and is deemed to have taken effect from 1 April 2020. The instrument is at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2020/502/contents/made>

The national NALC's Toilet Tax Survey

The national NALC have written to us as follows

Many thanks over recent months for promoting the NALC / BTA toilet tax survey:

- 541 responses received;
- Cornwall submitted the most responses with 12.8% of the overall submissions;
- 35% of respondents said they had incurred business rate fees of up to £1500 in the last financial year on their public conveniences;
- 58% of respondents said their councils had budgeted to pay NNDR on their public conveniences in the last financial year; &
- 99% of respondents said they supported the campaign to end the toilet tax on the statute book.

The resurrected Non Domestic Rating (Public Lavatories) Bill 2019-21 to finally end the toilet tax was re-commenced a few weeks ago in the Commons but Commons second reading was deferred from 30/3 due to coronavirus. A date for second reading in the Commons will be announced soon. I'll now contact the lead official at MHCLG to confirm when the date of second reading in the Commons will be.

The evidence gathered from the survey will be of use at later stages of the bill. Thanks,

Bank Holiday Reminder

Just to remind you that Monday 25 May 2020 is a Bank Holiday.



If you have any comments or observations, please contact
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or

Louise Currie, Community Initiatives Officer louisecurrie@ca-north.org.uk

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