



Northumberland Association of Local Councils

**NALC Enews
1 June 2021**

**Please forward to all Councillors
and Staff**

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 Councils

Sat, 5 Jun 2021 09:30

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/copy-of-general-introduction-to-local-councils-tickets-136595915059>

Budgets, Precepts and Finance

Tue, 22 Jun 2021 19:00

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/budgets-precepts-and-finance->

Introduction to Planning

Wed, 30 Jun 2021 19:00

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/introduction-to-planning-tickets-136596163803>

Being the Chairman of a Smaller Parish Council

Mon, 5 Jul 2021 19:00

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/being-the-chairman-of-a-smaller-parish-council-tickets-136596372427>

Highways and Public Rights of Way

Mon, 19 Jul 2021 19:00

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/highways-and-public-rights-of-way-tickets-136596593087>

.

Northumberland Elections

Just a reminder that the election expenses returns should be sent to the Elections Team at County Hall and fresh declarations of interests to Democratic Services at County Hall.

Please note that all Northumberland's Parish Town and Community Councillors have to complete a new declaration of interests. Old ones do not "carry over" and forms submitted as a County Councillor do not apply at our level, a further one is needed.

The Declarations of Acceptance of Office are retained by the clerk and are NOT sent to the County Council.

Pay Negotiations

Further to the National Employers' pay offer to the National Joint Council (NJC) Unions in respect of staff covered by the local government services NJC (the Green Book) of an increase of 1.5% on all NJC pay points 1 and above with effect from 1 April 2021, the trade unions have written to the National Employers to reject the pay

Local Council Precepts in England

The national NALC have produced a paper giving details of the percentage increases in English Local Council precepts for FY 2021/2022. Interestingly the average Band D increase for Local Councils in Newcastle and Northumberland is 1.87%. The other associations in the North-East were also low, Cleveland at -0.85% and County Durham at 1.76%. Taken together those are the three lowest in England.

Anecdotally, we wondered if this reflected a desire to keep increases down because of the effects of the pandemic on households together with most councils not losing income as a result of the fall in tourism etc. during 2021. Any thoughts would be welcomed.

The paper is at

https://mcusercontent.com/5060a2022e1081d67bbdd9b3a/files/de6d3d0d-f6f8-a423-6c27-04bf0e82a60e/Briefing_on_analysis_of_council_tax_levels_of_local_recepting_authorities_2021_22.pdf

Planning and Sewage Infrastructure

Newton on the Moor and Swarland Parish Council have asked if any other local council is having issues with developments being given planning permission without the proper sewage infrastructure in place.

If your Council is concerned that insufficient regard is being given to the effects on the existing sewage network, please let us know and we'll collate the information.

This may be a subject that a ZOOM discussion in a few weeks would help to enable interested Councils to exchange experiences before formal contact is made with the Planning Depts. and the Water Company.

interest

Local Design Guides

The City Council has been chosen as one of the 14 pilot areas to produce a local design guide for housing development

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/councils-given-funding-boost-to-develop-new-local-design-guide-for-housing-development>

Quashing a development in an AONB

This was a successful judicial review of a grant of planning permission for a proposed development in an Area of Outstanding National Beauty. The Council had failed to provide adequate reasons. Fairness required a formulated statement of reasons at common law, even though the proposed development was only of one dwelling, because (para 76) :-

- the site was in a highly sensitive cliff-top setting on the Heritage Coast and in the AONB;
- the Committee departed from the Officers' Report and the Development Plan;
- the Officer Recommendation was that the development would give rise to unacceptable harm to the AONB; and
- there was extensive public opposition to the development.

<https://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Admin/2021/1323.html>

Legal Challenges to Neighbourhood Plans

There's a legal article following a recent judgment by the Supreme Court in which Estelle Dehon and John Fitzsimons set out the lessons that those involved in neighbourhood plan and neighbourhood development order litigation should learn from the ruling.

<https://www.localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/planning/318-planning-features/47154-legal-challenges-to-neighbourhood-plans-and-orders-the-supreme-court-has-the-final-word>

Town Centre Regeneration

The House of Commons Library have produced a paper which highlights some of the key trends and discussions.

[Railways](#)

The Government's latest proposals for the future of the railways is at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/great-british-railways-for-the-passenger>

with a PDF at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/987739/gbr-williams-shapps-plan-for-rail-print.pdf

[May 2021 Election Analysis](#)

The House of Commons Library have produced papers on

Upper Tier Councils at

<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-9228/>

Mayors at

<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-9237/>

Police & Crime Commissioners at

<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-9244/>



*If you have any comments or observations, please contact
Stephen Rickitt, NALC Chief Officer stephenrickitt@northumberlandalc.uk*

or

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

Our website is at <https://northumberlandalc.uk/>

If you no longer wish to receive NALC E news click here:

[Unsubscribe](#)

Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▼

This email was sent to stephenrickitt@northumberlandalc.uk
[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)
Community Action Northumberland · UNIUN Enterprise Building · Front St · Pegswood, Northumberland NE61 6UF · United Kingdom