

Stephen Rickitt

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Northumberland Association
of Local Councils

NALC Enews

Monday 24 April 2017

Training Monday 24 April 2017 - Dinnington

Due to unforeseen circumstances, this has been postponed and will be re-arranged later in the year.

General Election and Purdah

The Electoral Commission has published the timetable which is available via <http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/uk-parliamentary-general-election-great-britain>

The Cabinet Office has now placed the purdah restrictions on Central Government and for those ,their guidance is at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/election-guidance-for-civil-servants/general-election-2017-guidance-for-civil-servants>

Local Councils must be cautious about publicity issued during the campaign. For those Local Councils in Northumberland, it means in practice that the current purdah period continues for a

further five weeks until close of polls on 8 June 2017. Local Councils in Newcastle are now in the purdah period as well.

Please note one difference in particular. Unlike Councillors, MPs do not remain in office until their successors take office. They cease to be MPs when Parliament is dissolved on 3 May. Ministers however remain as ministers.

The following is a summary

Purdah

a) Purdah is the term generally given for the period before an election when public bodies have to take special care not to be seen to be using public funds in a way that could be seen as potentially affecting the outcome of the election.

b) The 2011 Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authority Publicity applies in any event to all Parish, Town and Community Councils at all times. In particular, paragraphs 33-35 deal with elections (link below)

c) It does not mean that ordinary council business is suspended, indeed to take one example, the

period for responding to planning applications remains and is not automatically extended during the Purdah period.

d) TPC Councillors continue to be able to participate in the ordinary decision-making process.

e) Councils will, however, have to consider the appropriateness of ceremonial and civic events during the purdah period.

Link to the Publicity Code

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/5670/1878324.pdf

Further Items of Information

The regular Enews will be dispatched tomorrow or Wednesday.



***If you have any comments or observations, please contact
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