

Stephen Rickitt

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Northumberland Association
of Local Councils

NALC Enews

24 January 2017

Training

Just a reminder that there's a session on Saturday 4 February 2017. It's an Introduction to Local Councils for new Councillors and Clerks. Details and booking is via <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/nalc-introduction-to-local-councils-tickets-30885000869>

LEADER Grants

The County Committee would like to remind communities that grants are still available for small businesses, farmers, foresters and communities for projects that create jobs and grow the rural economy. More information is available via

Coast and Lowlands

<http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Partners/Northumberland-Coast-Lowlands-LEADER.aspx>

Uplands

<http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Partners/Northumberland-Uplands-LEADER.aspx>

Northumberland County Council's 2017/2018 Budget

The report is being considered at a Scrutiny Committee on 26 January before moving through their process with a view to being agreed at their Full Council on 22 February 2017.

The report is available via the link below but a word of caution, it's 234 pages. On a first read the following points struck me

- The savings over the next three years have reduced to £36M; made up as £6M in 2017/18, £20M in 2018/19 and £10M in 2019/20.
- The suggested rise in the County's precept is 4.99%, which includes the 3% Adult Social Care Precept.
- The projected efficiencies in service areas for 2017/2018 are at pages 120/121.
- Details of the proposed Capital Programme start at page 151
- There's also the Policy for Rate Relief starting at page 101

If anyone sees an issue which might affect Members Councils then please let me know.

http://committeedocs.northumberland.gov.uk/MeetingDocs/25447_M7664.pdf

State of Rural Services

A report was published last week which presents the most recent evidence regarding the provision of services to residents and businesses in rural England.

It covers nine service areas, which are: local buses and community transport, welfare services, access to cash, further education, the retail sector, mental health services, older people's services, public health services and community assets.

It may prove useful as supporting material for funding applications .

<https://ruralengland.org/the-state-of-rural-services-2016-report/>

Flood Prevention

A House of Commons Select Committee have issued a report criticising the Govt's response available via

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/environment-food-and-rural-affairs-committee/news-parliament-2015/future-flood-prevention-government-response-published-16-17/>

Overview and Scrutiny

The House of Commons CLG Select Committee have launched an inquiry to consider whether overview and scrutiny arrangements in England are working effectively and whether local communities are able to contribute to and monitor the work of their councils. They have asked for any written submissions by 10 March 2017.

Full details are via

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/communities-and-local-government-committee/inquiries/parliament-2015/inquiry6/>

The Local Government Finance Bill 2017

There's a comprehensive briefing from the House of Commons Library at

<http://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/CBP-7873>

New Legal Topic Notes

The national NALC have updated two Legal Topic Notes (LTNs) available on their website (log-in required) : LTNs 36 and 42 have been revised to fully take account of the legal changes resulting from the Consumer Rights Act 2015 in terms of what a local council can do to limit liability under contract and to visitors/trespassers; the opportunity has been taken to restructure the

contents of the LTNs to maximise clarity. The law on these matters is the same in both England and Wales.

I can supply copies to Member Councils on request.



If you have any comments or observations, please contact

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or

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