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Northumberland Association of Local Councils

**NALC Enews
6 May 2020
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.

[Introduction to Electronic Meetings](#)

These are further events for those wanting to experience an electronic meeting for perhaps the first time.

Thursday 14 May 2020 starting at 1000

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/introduction-to-electronic-meetings-and-a-general-update-tickets-104512850750>

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/introduction-to-electronic-meetings-and-a-general-update-tickets-104513322160>

[General Introduction to Local Council Procedure](#)

Thursday 21 May 2020 starting at 1000

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

Repeated on

Tuesday May starting at 1900

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

2019/2020 Audit

All clerks should have received an email from PKF Littlejohn with instructions on how to complete the AGAR. A copy of the instructions is at

https://mcusercontent.com/5060a2022e1081d67bbdd9b3a/files/e48f1d93-3a2d-4b23-b8e8-96cc9009e1a1/2019_20_Instruction_email_wordings_PKF_Littlejohn.docx

Please see also the Member Bulletin circulated on 29 April to the Chairmen and Clerks of all Member Councils. Please let us know if your Council did not get a copy of the Member Update.

Letter from the Secretary of State

On 30 April, the Secretary of State at the MHCLG published the letter to our sector which is available at the link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-letter-to-town-and-parish-councils>

The letter includes

"As Local Government Secretary I want you to know that I am behind

funding available to councils, with the latest tranche of £1.6 billion including a larger share for lower tier councils. If you have questions regarding funding I would encourage you to speak with your principal council."

This announcement came as a surprise to our sector, the national NALC and to the City & County Councils. All are trying to find out exactly what is meant, what the funds are and how they will be distributed.

Once there is some clarity, we will inform Member Councils.

Good Administrative Practice during the response to Covid 19

Although the Local Govt. Ombudsman does not have a formal role in our sector, the recent publication of a note on good practice during the present National Emergency may be of interest. It is available via

<https://www.lgo.org.uk/information-centre/news/2020/may/ombudsman-issues-guidance-to-councils-and-care-providers>

Planning

Kings Chambers are barristers based in Manchester and Leeds who have been instructed by a number of principal Councils in the North-East.

Their website has a podcast discussion about the future of the high street. Including what the retailers and local authorities can do to deliver vibrant town centres.

Details are at

<https://www.kingschambers.com/latest-news/kings-chambers-podcast/>

ZOOM

are Microsoft Teams and Google Hangouts. We'd very much welcome impressions from those who may be using a number of the systems with views on the advantages and disadvantages please. We gain the impression that many of the media reports on security relate to the Free versions of these platforms and again any experiences would be welcome please.

The national NALC recently drew attention to a ZOOM webinar aimed at local govt. in the USA. It is ,however, interesting and worth watching for those hosting or co-hosting meetings over here. It is available at

https://zoom.us/rec/play/upIrcuD-gmo3S9OXtQSDB_AvW468eKusgHNM-aEJnxu3B3VRNIKjb7ISa7fDgnGAEHwtRBBvhOF_ED99?autoplay=true

ZOOM also have a large number of short videos on various aspects of using their products at

https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/206618765-Zoom-Video-Tutorials?_ga=2.108003458.1668919951.1588750632-1912840030.1586416882

Royal Garden Parties 2020

The national NALC has been advised that the Royal Garden Parties scheduled for this month have been formally cancelled. Those who had been invited will be invited to a Garden Party during 2021.

The national NALC website

The national NALC have a wealth of CV-19 related information on their website

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

It is on the open part of their website so no password is required to gain access.

It is updated with information as the details change. Please visit it.

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*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

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