

Northumberland Association of Local Councils

County Committee

8 September 2018

NALC Chief Officer's Report

This report is shorter than usual due to the summer holidays.

Part A: Items for discussions and/or decisions

A1: Policy Developments

On 24 July, the Prime Minister announced the establishment of the North of Tyne Combined Authority – see below

A2: North of Tyne Devolution

The MHCLG has laid the necessary draft Orders in Parliament. This seems later than expected and means that the new combined authority will not be formally established until October 2018. I understand that elections for the new mayor are still targeted for May 2019.

The draft order is at

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2018/9780111171875/contents>

It is disappointing that our request for a local council seat on the overview & scrutiny committee has not been built in to the draft, but I understand that the County Council will be pressing our case.

A3: Borderlands Initiative

Information on their conference is now available in their post-conference newsletter at

<http://www.borderlandsgrowth.com/Portals/0/Documents/newletters/Borderlands%20Post-Conference%20Newsletter%20July%202018.pdf>

A4: Emails

The office is migrating to Office365, a cloud-based system. My impression is that this makes remote working easier than before. One issue discussed with the consultant installing the new systems was sending bulk emails in a way that reduces the risk of them being caught by spam filters. The advice given was to use Mailchimp or similar. For this reason, we are

trying to ensure that our Mailchimp list is up-to-date with the details of both Chairmen and Clerks.

Part B: Items intended for information but updates can be provided and/or concerns raised

B1: Meetings attended and planned, and General Issues

- With my counterparts from Cumbria & Durham ALCs
- Telephone discussion with the national NALC CX regarding their consultation
- The County Council's Castle Morpeth Local Area Council to give an update on how the GDPR is affecting local councils.

B2: Issues raised by member councils

These have included

- Co-option processes
- Disqualification of Councillors under the six-month rule
- Declarations of interests
- The new external audit arrangements for exempt Councils

B3 2018 Training Programme

The training programme is underway, and the table below shows attendance

Event	Location	Date	Numbers Booked	Numbers Attended
Audit	Bardon Mill	12 April	8	7*
Audit	Belford	16 April	13	13
Data Protection	Bedlington Station	19 April	9	9
Data Protection	Longhoughton	23 April	15	15
Data Protection	Bardon Mill	25 April	10	10

Audit	Bedlington Station	8 May	2	4#
Audit & Data Protection	Pegswood	12 May	19	18#
Intro to Local Councils	Powburn	11 June	8	8
Intro to Local Councils	Bedlington Station	14 June	9	9
Intro to Local Councils	Powburn	20 June	6	6
Intro to Local Councils	Dinnington	5 July	1	Cancelled
<i>Running Totals</i>			99 [100]@	99

* Date rearranged and one booking was unable to attend

One rearranged from Sat 12 May

B4: Items sent to Member Councils and the County Committee

- The County Council's draft Local Plan – 28 June 2018

The following were dispatched using Mailchimp

- Move to Mailchimp for Member emails – 12 July 2018
- FoI Code of Practice – 19 July 2018
- The Rural Economy – 31 July 2018
- Highways Training – 1 August 2018
- Rural Roads – 2 August 2018

B5: Press Reports

The Local Democracy Reporter has published two pieces in the local press.

The links are to the reports in one of the papers but variants have appeared in most papers

<https://www.northumberlandgazette.co.uk/news/parishes-want-a-voice-on-the-new-combined-authority-1-9279246>

<https://www.northumberlandgazette.co.uk/news/successful-but-busy-year-for-northumberland-councils-association-1-9310714>

Stephen Rickitt

NALC Chief Officer

30 August 2018