

Stephen Rickitt

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Northumberland Association of Local Councils <info@northumberlandalc.uk>
Sent: 16 May 2018 10:34
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Northumberland Association of Local Councils

NALC Enews
15 May 2018

Data Protection

The Data Protection Bill is still in the "ping-pong" stage as the Commons and Lords disagree over an amendment relating to the Leveson Inquiry.

The amendment removing the need for Parish Councils (of any size) to have a Data Protection Officer appears to have been carried without opposition.

Once the Bill receives the Royal Assent, we'll be able to see the legislation in its final form and thus able to advise on what steps may be required (if any) over and above the national NALC's GDPR Toolkit.

Member Emails

The Chairmen and Clerks of Member Parish Councils have been sent the following emails, with the date of dispatch

- Building Control and Development Control - 8 May
- Northumberland's Highway Hierarchy - 9 May
- Informal Meetings with the County Council - 9 May
- Potential revisions to the Association's Constitution - 15 May
- A note of the County Council's Town & Parish Liaison Working Group - 15 May
- A copy of the national NALC's Legal Topic Note on Document Retention - 15 May

If your Council has not received any of these, please let me know.

Vacancy for a Clerk

Ellingham Parish Council are seeking a clerk. For details please email the current clerk, Elspeth Gilliland, at ellinghampc@gmail.com

The closing date for applications is 30 June 2018.

Environmental Principles

On 10 May, DEFRA announced a consultation on an *Environmental Principles and Governance Bill*. Details are at

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/eu/environmental-principles-and-governance/>

The consultation closes on 2 August 2018.

Their statement includes the following

"Our new Environmental Principles and Governance Bill is designed to create a new, world-leading, independent environmental watchdog to hold government to account on our environmental ambitions and obligations once we have left the EU. When the UK leaves the EU, we will no longer be under the jurisdiction of the EU institutions which currently provide oversight and enforcement of many of our environmental laws. The new body will ensure that environmental standards are upheld after we leave the EU, holding government to account for their delivery. In order to ensure we have robust environmental governance systems in place, we propose that the new body should have three main functions: providing independent scrutiny and advice; responding to complaints; and enforcing government's delivery of environmental law where necessary. However, we are consulting on what functions and powers the new body should have specifically, and would welcome a wide range of stakeholders' views on this subject. The new Environmental Principles and Governance Bill will also establish a new, comprehensive, statutory Environmental Principles Policy Statement. The current system of EU environmental legislation is underpinned by a number of 'environmental principles', such as sustainable development, the precautionary principle and the polluter pays principle. Although these principles are already central to government environmental policy, they are not set out in one place beside the EU treaties. The consultation is exploring the scope and content of a new statement on environmental principles in order to underline our commitment that environmental protection will be enhanced, not diluted, as we leave the EU. We are consulting as to whether the environmental principles themselves should be listed in the Environmental Principles and Governance Bill, in addition to the policy statement. It will be a statutory requirement for government to have regard to the policy statement as it interprets the environmental principles. We also propose to give the new environmental body the function and powers to scrutinise application of the policy statement, periodically advising government on possible improvements and taking action to ensure application, if necessary."

The Borderlands Partnership

The Borderlands Partnership brings together the five cross-border local authorities of Carlisle City Council, Cumbria County Council, Dumfries and Galloway Council, Northumberland County Council and

Scottish Borders Council to promote the economic growth of the area that straddles the Scotland-England border.

We are working together to focus on ways to make the area more attractive to investors, visitors and those who may wish to come and live here.

Our shared ambition is to play our full part in the Scottish and wider UK economy.

More details are on their website at
<http://www.borderlandsgrowth.com/>



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