



Northumberland Association of Local Councils

NALC Enews
27 March 2018

Member Emails

The Chairmen and Clerks of Member Councils have been sent the following emails

- National NALC survey on evidence for the C'tee on Standards in Public Life's review of local government standards - 20 March 2018
- The 2018 Briefing & Training Programme - 21 March 2018
- Update on the Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) - 21 March 2018 - and see below.

If your Council has not received a copy, please let me know.

Later on today, we will be dispatching details of the new Practitioner's Guide to Proper Practices to be applied in the preparation of the statutory annual accounts and governance statements.

The AGAR

The External Auditors for our area, PKF Littlejohn, have asked that I provide you with the following message which is an auto-response to any emails they receive

Thank you for your email.

If your email contained a query in relation to the 2017/18 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) or the year end instructions and guidance, please note that all the instructions/guidance/AGAR forms/pro formas are now available on our website:

<https://www.pkf-littlejohn.com/services-limited-assurance-regime-useful-documents-and-links>

(The only information that has yet to be updated is the precept listing for local councils and parish meetings. This will be done ASAP and certainly by the end of the month.)

Please note that we plan to email this link to all smaller authorities before the end of the month, with an additional email being sent to the 5% random sample of authorities below £200,000 who are selected for an intermediate review this year.

Local Council Investments

New statutory guidance has been issued and comes into effect on 1 April 2018.

It is available at

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/678866/Guidance_on_local_government_investments.pdf

Please note that the advice is mandatory for Councils with investments over £100k - a reduction from the previous limit of £0.5m.

It is also recommended good practice for Councils with investments over £10k.

Implementing Geological Disposal

The Dept for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy has issued a consultation which

"seeks views on how communities should be engaged in a siting process for a Geological Disposal Facility for higher activity radioactive waste.

The proposals build on commitments set out in the 2014 White Paper 'Implementing Geological Disposal', in which the UK Government and Northern Ireland Executive jointly set out an approach based on working with communities in England and Northern Ireland that are willing to participate in the siting process for a geological disposal facility. They relate to how communities should be engaged, how early community investment could be provided to communities that participate in the siting process, how a right of withdrawal could operate throughout the siting process, and how a test of public support could be carried out before construction and operation of a geological disposal facility"

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/working-with-communities-implementing-geological-disposal>

Flooding

The Environment Agency have issued a further of their videos, covering what to put in an emergency grab bag.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GxcWfJRCCFQ>

The House of Lords NERC Committee

This Committee looked at the effectiveness. of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. It is a wide-ranging report with comments over a range of Govt. actions (or lack thereof).

It is available via

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201719/ldselect/ldnerc/99/9902.htm>

Planning Legal Articles

Here are links to two articles which may be of interest. In the first Simon Ricketts (No relation) examines the issues that emerge when changes are sought to a major scheme with planning permission.

https://localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=arti

[cle&id=34647%3Aa-change-is-gonna-come&catid=63&Itemid=31](#)

In the second, Josef Cannon reports on an inspector's approach to the 'tilted balance' in the National Planning Policy Framework, as the sun begins to set on paragraphs 14 and 49.

https://localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=34655%3Aapproaches-to-the-tilted-balance&catid=63&Itemid=31



If you have any comments or observations, please contact

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