



Northumberland Association of Local Councils

NALC Enews 28 November 2019

Emails to Member Councils

The Chairmen and Clerks of Member Councils have been sent the following email since the last issue of the Enews.

28 November containing

- A message from Cllr Alec Wallace, Chairman of the County Committee regarding the national Smaller Councils Committee
- PDF copies of the LGA's Guide to handling intimidation
- Information on a national model Code of Conduct
- Information on Website Accessibility
- Slides presented to the recent meeting of the County Council's Town & Parish Liaison Working Group regarding climate change
- The revised and updated guidance on disciplinary & grievance arrangements
- Northumberland's Council Tax Base & Precept for 2020/2021

If your Chairman or Clerk has changed, please let me know so that we can keep our mailing list up-to-date.

Briefings

No briefings are currently scheduled. We are thinking about the programme for 2020 and would welcome any suggestions please.

Healthwatch

Healthwatch Northumberland is the independent champion for people who use health and social care services, it receives feedback about what is working well for people and what could be improved, and share these views with those who have the power to make change happen. Healthwatch also helps people find the information they need about services in their area and record this as 'signposting'.

The report below shares a summary of the feedback collected from July to September 2019. Prior reports are available from their website and Healthwatch is happy to attend meetings to hear from parish councils.

<https://healthwatchnorthumberland.co.uk/8413-2/>

Home Office Consultation

On the final day before Parliament was dissolved, the Home Office issued a consultation paper on "measures to criminalise the act of trespassing when setting up an unauthorised encampment in England and Wales".

The consultation closes on 4 March 2020 and is available at the link below.

If any Member Council has views and experiences of this issue, then this association and the national NALC would like to hear from you please.

OFGEM Consultation - Households not connected to mains electricity

Our colleagues in CAN have already distributed details through their networks so apologies if you already have this in hand but if your community has households who are not connected to mains electricity, please consider completing the OFGEM questionnaire. The consultation is only open until 2 December.

<https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/call-evidence-households-not-connected-electricity-distribution-network>

Planning

1: The Supreme Court recently issued its judgment on a case concerning a community fund, very clearly stating that such benefits are not a material planning consideration unless certain tests are passed. The Court issues a press summary for each of its decisions and the relevant one is at the link

<https://www.supremecourt.uk/cases/docs/uksc-2018-0007-press-summary.pdf>

2: There's an interesting legal article on applying heritage policies when considering planning applications

<https://www.localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/planning/318-planning-features/42000-applying-heritage-policies-levels-of-harm>

General Election 2019

Both the City Council's and County Council's websites have detailed information including lists of polling stations. One aspect which may differ from previous years is the restrictions on access to the counts. If there are any questions please direct them to the appropriate elections team.

<https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/local-government/elections-and-voting/voting>

Subscribe

Past Issues

Tr:

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Councillors/Vote.aspx>



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