

Contact us

 **Please contact the office on 01673 866596**

- For general enquiries including internal audit and advice, contact either Katrina – Line 1 (or mobile 07422 963475) or Andrew – Line 3 (or mobile 07549 019842). Flexible Monday - Friday
- For general enquiries including website management service, invoices, training booking enquiries, contact Lindsey – Line 2 on Monday, Tuesday, Friday
- For general enquiries including website/portal updates, e-news items, vacancies, contact Elaine – Line 4 on Fridays

Please note that there may be times when the LALC office is not manned, particularly if staff are out training or attending meetings. If you can't get hold of us by phone, please contact us via one of the methods below.



www.lalc.co.uk/contactus



enquiries@lalc.co.uk



Raise a new Enquiry on the portal (login required)

If any Clerks want to join the Clerks' eGroup, or any councillors want to join the Councillor eGroup, contact enquiries@lalc.co.uk.

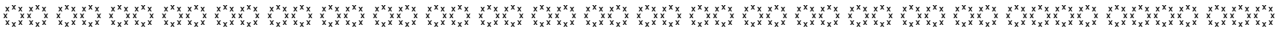
This fortnightly newsletter is provided to member councils through the clerk and chair and should be circulated to all councillors. This eNews can also be found on the [LALC website](#) under News (LALC News). Other important information which comes up in between eNews publication dates is also shared on the website under News (Our Blog).

Training courses are available to book via the portal (login required)

The Training Bulletin is issued monthly, and courses are available to book via the portal. If there is any specific training which you feel would be valuable, and we don't currently offer it, please let us know and we will investigate. The Training Bulletin can be found on the LALC website www.lalc.co.uk/training-2-1.

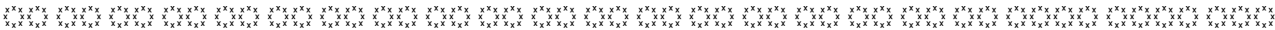
Clerks – when booking training for your councillors, **please ensure that their email address is correct**. If not, they will not receive the booking confirmation or any joining instructions. If you have set up your

This week, we responded to the government's latest paper on brownfield passports, which we broadly welcome. In our response to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's latest paper, we argued that it supports the principle of encouraging the development of brownfield land, particularly within urban settlements, while recognising that factors other than the planning status influence whether development occurs. We recognise that while national policy may influence the overall expectations regarding the minimum scale of development for urban locations, the optimum level of development is likely to be established at the local level, combined with robust design codes. The paper forms part of a series of working papers on different aspects of planning reform designed to inform further policy development in collaboration with the wider sector.



Employer National Insurance contributions

NALC's chair, Cllr Keith Stevens, has written to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rachel Reeves MP, about the recent Budget, where he calls for compensation for the increase in National Insurance contributions (NICs) and more engagement with the sector to ensure government policies align with local needs. In summary, Keith's letter congratulates the Chancellor on her first budget, highlights the vital role of parish and town councils in supporting communities, and raises concerns over the planned rise in employer NICs. The letter sets out how this would unfairly burden parish and town councils and increase their share of council tax. As we support devolution, our letter emphasises the need for parish and town councils to be empowered and involved in decision-making. Further priorities addressed include the rural economy, housing, and planning, reflecting the motion approved by our recent Annual General Meeting. We've also been briefing MPs and Peers on the Budget and NICs. Ahead of a debate on the Budget in the House of Lords, we sent a briefing to Peers, and it was good to see the impact of NICs get raised several times. You can read the full transcript of the debate on Hansard. I am pleased to see the new MP for Truro and Falmouth, Jayne Kirkham MP (who is also a Falmouth town councillor), use her speech on the Budget to highlight that many parish and town councils "have taken on so many of the services of which the unitary authorities have divested themselves, and as a consequence are often large employers with big budgets". We will continue to brief MPs on the Budget ahead of the second reading of the Finance Bill in the House of Commons on 27 November 2024.



SLCC: No Central Compensation for the Additional Costs of Employer's NIC

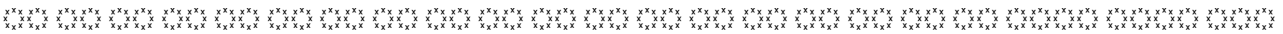
SLCC has received an email from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) confirming the position for local councils in England in relation to the additional costs of employer's National Insurance contributions from April 2025, which were announced in the Autumn Budget:

I wanted to reach out following the Budget increase in Employer National Insurance contributions and what it means for parish and town councils. We are conscious that this will impact the finances of town and parish councils, and have been discussing the implications of these changes with colleagues at the Treasury.

You can now log in to your portal on the SLCC website to access training materials, including certificates, recordings, and presentations. CPD certificates will be issued automatically upon completion of SLCC training. (Please note that this applies exclusively to SLCC training products.)

All your resources are now consolidated under the 'Training & Events' section for easy access after logging in.

These updates reflect our ongoing commitment to providing a streamlined, user-friendly experience and we invite you to login and explore!



Explore the Parish Council Domain Service

SLCC have announced the launch of their new webpage dedicated to the Parish Council Domain Service. This comprehensive resource provides valuable information about the service, including guidance for councils looking to adopt official .gov.uk domains.

The webpage also features an interactive map, offering a visual indicator of councils across the country using .gov.uk and other domain types. This tool makes it easy to explore domain adoption trends nationwide and highlights the benefits of aligning with official government domain standards.

Visit the webpage today to learn more and see how your council can get involved!

<https://www.slcc.co.uk/domain-name-map/>

If your council is thinking of moving over to a .gov.uk domain, now is the time to contact the Parish Council Domains Helper Service and get started on your journey.

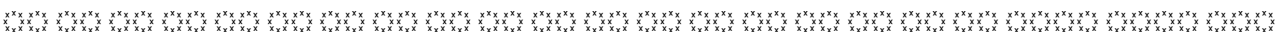
Register your interest here and you will be invited to one of their introductory sessions:

<https://tinyurl.com/3tj3rezc>

The introductory sessions are all virtual and last about 45 minutes. You will be able to pick a date and time that is most convenient to you.

Any council moving ahead with a .gov.uk domain will receive help and guidance at every stage: from getting the greenlight to proceed, to picking the best Approved Registrar for your circumstances, to getting set up on your new domain, all the way through to maintaining good practices after you 'go live'. They'll also tell you how you can access the £100 + VAT funding to help with initial costs.

The funding available is already over 70% committed and is **only available in this financial year**, so if choosing a .gov.uk domain is on your to-do list now would be a great time to make the first step.

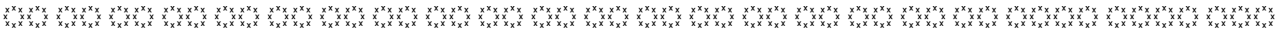


LCC campaign for fairer funding

The county council has launched a new campaign calling on government to give Lincolnshire its fair share of national funding.

To show the scale of the challenge facing the council, this year the authority expects to spend around £350m on adult care – the equivalent of almost £1m a day – plus £130m on children’s social care and £50m on school transport.

Cllr Martin Hill explains: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ys3RN2MrPg>



Government announces further Household Support Fund support

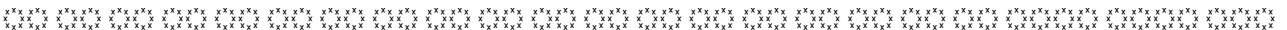
Lincolnshire has been awarded £5.5m by the government for the sixth round of the Household Support Fund, covering the period from 1 October 2024 to 31 March 2025. The county council has worked with district councils to agree how this funding can be used most effectively to support those most in need with the cost of essentials.

Approximately 64% will go to schools and early years providers, to support children eligible for benefits-related free school meals, early years pupil premium and families with a two-year-old eligible for early years entitlement. This will be distributed during November and December.

1% will be used to provide financial support to eligible care leavers in supported living accommodation. Those eligible will be contacted directly and will not have to apply for support.

Approximately 34% of the funding will go to district councils to support vulnerable households via local schemes using an application-based process.

Find out more: www.lincolnshire.gov.uk



NKDC consultation – Active Travel Strategy

NKDC have broadened their North Kesteven Cycling Strategy into a draft Active Travel Strategy, which is now out for consultation to parish and town councils and key stakeholders in the district.

The strategy sets out an aim for active travel; ‘To increase participation in walking, wheeling and cycling by all in North Kesteven’ around priority outcomes for safety, more awareness, opportunities and infrastructure delivery. As well as setting out an action plan the strategy also acknowledges close collaborative working with partners and stakeholders is essential. It also recognises that in many cases

