



5th June 2026

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## Latest News

[NALC news](#) (NALC login may be required)  
[SLCC news](#) (No SLCC login required)  
[LCC Town and Parish Newsletter](#)  
[LCC Highways News](#)  
[Clear Councils Newsletter](#)

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## CiLCA Congratulations!

Congratulations to Judy Pittock from Helpringham Parish Council upon successful completion of CiLCA.

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## Local Council Clerk Week - 8 to 12 June

Source: SLCC

Local Council Clerk Week (LCCW) is a dedicated week to celebrate and raise awareness of the incredible work clerks do for their communities.

Get involved - spread the word!

[Check out the resource available via SLCC.](#)

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## National Allotment Society Launches First Nationwide Audit of UK Plots in 30 years

Source: SLCC

The National Allotment Society (NAS), the national membership organisation for allotment holders, is undertaking a survey of local authorities to establish a clear and up-to-date national picture of allotment provision, demand, and management.

The survey – the first of its kind in 30 years – will provide vital, evidence-based data to enable local authorities, planners, and policymakers to shape planning and provision to meet future demand for growing space.

Since the last NAS audit in 1996, the UK has seen significant changes in population, urban development, and land availability. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, there has also been increasing public interest in 'growing your own' food produce and being out in nature for wellbeing and mental health benefits.

Thirty years ago, the previous survey recorded 7,796 sites and 296,923 plots – an average of 15 plots per 1,000 households. Data from this latest survey is anticipated to show a vastly different landscape.

Local authorities or councils responsible for allotments can complete the survey [here](#).

## HMRC mileage rates

HMRC have revised the mileage rates for the first time since 2011. (The tax-free amount at which mileage can be reimbursed for the first 10,000 mileage claimed, has increased from 45p per mile to 55p per mile).

To be eligible for mileage, this should be stated in the employee's contract and the council will need to resolve to pay the new rate (backdated as required).

[Details of the new rates can be found here.](#)

- Create a "Minute of Me" video – Share a short clip about your role, key responsibilities, or projects you're working on and post it with #LCCW.
- Visit a local school – Arrange a talk about local government or invite students to your office to see what a clerk does.
- Speak at a community event – Help others understand the value of clerks by giving a talk to a local group or club.



It is now less than a month until Lincolnshire Show on Wednesday 17th and Thursday 18th June. LALC will have a stand at the show to promote the work of parish and town councils near to the Lincolnshire County Council and West Lindsey District Council stands.

We are preparing our materials for display and would appreciate if you could share with us any images of your council, recent events and projects in 2025 and 2026 that you have been delivering in your communities.

**Thank you** to all those councils who have already sent in photos and articles - **we need more!**

Please give us the name of the council, a description of the project, date and title of the event and the name of any significant person shown in the image, such as:

*"Anywhere Parish Council held its annual garden fete on 4th June 2025 with over 500 members of the public. In the picture is the Chair of the Council, Vicky Smith and Vice Chair, John Smith, awarding prizes."*

Or

*"Everywhere Town Council held its Annual Town Meeting on 4th April 2026 and local electors came along to hear about the new new flood warning systems installed locally. Here is the picture of the Town Hall with attendees listening to the speaker, Matt Jones from Lincolnshire County Council."*

And

*"Any Parish Council recently invested in new benches, defibrillators, war memorial refurbishment and provided a grant for regular coffee mornings in the village hall. Here are some photos of these items and events."*

Your assistance is much appreciated. It helps promote your council and your community. We prefer that you have copyright holders' approval to share the images and approval for us to display them.

Please send your contributions to [enquiries@lalc.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@lalc.co.uk) by **Thursday 11th June 2026**.

If you are at the Lincolnshire Show come along to our **stand 10-28** and we will be serving light refreshments throughout the day and we look forward to seeing you.

## Great British Summer Savings 2026: Temporary reduced VAT rates

Source: SLCC

The government has provided more information on its introduction of a temporary reduced rate of VAT on family leisure activities over the summer period (from 25 June to 1 September 2026), cutting VAT from 20% to 5%.

Great British Summer Savings will be a targeted and temporary scheme to reduce the costs of children's meals in restaurants, children's tickets for theatres and cinemas and tickets for everyone for attractions like soft play, adventure centres, and theme parks.

Businesses and local councils with activities that are within scope can find out what this means for them on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)

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## National Planning Policy Framework Expected to be Published Over the Summer

The new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is expected to be published over the summer.

Speaking at a major conference, Matthew Pennycook MP, Housing and Planning Minister, said, 'We have to publish a final, revised NPPF, and we will do so this summer.'

He also stated that the government intends to introduce the new National Scheme of Delegation, which will mean amongst other things that local authority planning committees in England will only consider the most significant planning applications, expected to come into force in the coming weeks.

A full version of the Minister's speech can be found [here](#)

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## NALC welcomes strong audit results but calls for sector-wide support on governance and compliance pressures

England's smaller local authorities are continuing to demonstrate strong overall accountability, with most councils meeting audit standards and nearly all submitting their annual accounts, according to the latest [national audit report from the Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments \(SAAA\)](#).

In 2024/25, 97% of authorities submitted their Annual Governance and Accountability Returns (AGARs) by the end of September, while 67% received clean, unqualified audit opinions. Auditors also maintained high levels of performance, completing 94% of reviews by the statutory deadline, rising to 96% by year-end.

## Counter Terrorism Policing: Run Hide Tell Advice

Source: SLCC

Counter Terrorism Policing (CTP) has published advice to members of the public on what to do in the event of a terror attack or other serious attack.

CTP is sharing simple advice that sets out three key steps for keeping safe in the event of a firearms or weapons attack.

In the event of a firearms or weapons attack, remember Run Hide Tell. This advice can be used in many situations and places. We know from case studies and testimony of people who have survived attacks that this advice can save lives.

In the event of an attack, CPT advises individuals to:

- RUN if it's safe, this is the best option
- HIDE if you can't run
- TELL the police by calling 999 when it is safe to do so

Colleagues are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the guidance and to contact anti-terrorist police via their hotline 0800 789 321 to raise any concerns.

[Read more here.](#)

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## LALC 53rd AGM - 9<sup>th</sup> July 2026

The AGM will be held via Zoom.

The evening will commence at 6:30pm with our Guest Speaker, Cllr Sean Matthews, Leader of Lincolnshire County Council addressing delegates.

We require a quorum of 10% of our membership for the AGM to go ahead.

The agenda will be sent out within the next couple of weeks.

The Annual Report will be sent out prior to the AGM.

Please book via the LALC portal (login required), so that we have an idea of numbers and can determine whether the meeting is quorate.

### The Subsidy Control Act 2022

We recently received requests about the implications of the Subsidy Control Act 2022. In 2023, we provided general guidance that we'd like to share again. The Subsidy Control Act 2022 came into force on 4 January 2023 and creates a regime covering any financial assistance by a public authority to an outside commercial enterprise. The controls apply to any situation where a local council has provided more than "minimal financial assistance". Minimal financial assistance is defined as not exceeding £315,000 in total over the current financial year and the two immediately preceding financial years. A subsidy is where a public authority provides support to an enterprise that gives it an economic advantage. The Subsidy Control Act 2022 does not apply to local authorities giving financial support to other local authorities.

#### Useful links:

- [Department for Science, Innovation and Technology - The new UK Subsidy Control Regime induction video](#)
- [GOV.UK - Statutory guidance for the United Kingdom Subsidy Control Regime](#)
- [GOV.UK - Subsidy control rules: quick guide to key requirements for public authorities](#)
- [GOV.UK - Subsidy control principles assessment guides](#)

### Can a parish or town council have standing orders that only permit certain candidates to become chair of the council?

We were asked if parish or town councils could set criteria for eligibility to stand as chair. Our answer was no. The election of the chair of a parish council is provided for in Section 15 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972, which says that the chair of a parish council shall be elected annually by the council from among the councillors. The fundamental point is that a council's standing orders cannot remove statutory rights. Legislation takes precedence over standing orders or custom. Any councillor can be elected chair under Section 15. Councils should not have policies or procedures that prevent a councillor from standing. The law does not provide a procedure for how a chair is selected. We understand that some councils make provision for certain councillors' standing, for example, the succession of the vice-chair or long-standing councillors. Our advice in such cases has been that councils must still consider councillors wishing to put themselves forward other than in accordance with council policies or standing orders.

### Finding a solicitor

We are often asked whether we can recommend local solicitors' firms to parish and town councils seeking legal advice or representation. However, we are unable to recommend individual solicitors or firms. Instead, we direct councils to the Law Society's [Find a Solicitor](#) service.

### Can a parish or town council hold two annual meetings — one for mayor-making and a subsequent meeting for business?

We were asked about a town council custom of holding two annual meetings in May. The first meeting focused on electing the chair and the associated civic ceremony, before being deferred to a second meeting a few days later for the council to conduct its formal business. In short, our view is that this was not permitted. Section 15 (2) of the Local Government Act 1972 says that the election of a chair shall be the first business transacted at the annual meeting of the parish council. The law requires an annual meeting, not two separate meetings. Our view is also that the practice of deferring the business in this manner did not comply with Section 15 (2) as the second meeting appeared to be held without the appropriate public notification. We also emphasise that there is no requirement for a separate civic and ceremonial meeting to be held or for a separate ceremonial role for a mayor, as there is with the mayor-making or the mayor role at the principal authority level.

### Publishing councillor addresses on the register of interests

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government recently wrote to us to confirm that from 29 June 2026, local authorities must not publish an elected or co-opted member's home address in local authority registers of interest. A new Section 32A of the Localism Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) makes clear that a member's home address must not be disclosed on the authority's public register of interest unless the member has requested otherwise. The requirement not to publish a member's home address extends to parish and town councils that publish registers of interest on their own website in line with Section 29 (7) of the 2011 Act. To aid transparency, public registers of interest will still state that a member has an interest, the address of which is withheld. The exact address details are still declared to the monitoring officer, remain available internally to authorities and will continue to prevent conflicts of interest.

### Assets of community value changes

The English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act 2026 (the 2026 Act) received Royal Assent at the end of last month. We understand that the 2026 Act makes changes to the Localism Act 2011 with respect to assets of community value. The changes are not in force. We will update any guidance as required when the law comes into effect, possibly next year.

### Recent team activity

Updated policy templates due to the Employment Rights Act 2025 provisions coming into force.

In this month's newsletter, we look at upcoming changes for non unionised workplaces, a reminder that collective consultation obligations can arise earlier than expected, and how tribunals are approaching compensation in discrimination cases. We also cover practical risks around implied terms, employee benefits and the growing impact of tribunal delays.

### **Employment Rights Act 2025: Trade Union changes**

Employment Rights Act reforms expand union access and require employers to inform staff of union rights.

[Read the article](#)

### **The new employment watchdog is here – are you ready?**

Fair Work Agency signals proactive enforcement, requiring employers to prioritise compliance, records and early resolution.

[Read the article](#)

### **Tribunal awards £300,000+ for decades of denied holiday entitlement**

Tribunal ruling highlights risks of poor holiday management, stressing proactive oversight and record-keeping.

[Read the article](#)

### **Collective consultation: when does a “proposal to dismiss” arise?**

Employment Appeal Tribunal confirms collective consultation duties can arise early where large-scale redundancies are anticipated.

[Read the article](#)

### **Employment tribunal backlog at record levels – how employers should react**

Rising tribunal backlog prolongs risk; clear processes and documentation remain essential despite delays.

[Read the article](#)

### **Implied Terms: The hidden rules in employment contracts**

Implied terms arise from law, necessity, and workplace practice, creating binding obligations beyond written agreements.

[Read the article](#)

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### **MPs Raise Concerns Over Rural Access To Banking Services**

Source: Rural Services Network

MPs from across the political spectrum have urged the Government to review how banking hubs are assessed and delivered, warning that rural communities are being left behind as bank branch closures continue across the UK.

[Read the article](#)

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### **Government Reviews Access to Face-to-Face Banking Services**

Source: SLCC

On 14 May, the government announced that it is taking action to ensure people and communities in the UK can continue to access the banking services they need by commissioning an independent review alongside delivering new powers to act on the findings.

The review will gather evidence on the real-world impact of branch closures, identify who is most affected, and assess where further action may be needed to protect access to banking services.

[Read more](#)

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### **NALC's Project Keystone survey deadline extended to 12 June 2026**

This is your chance to influence the sector support for parish and town councils.

[Take the survey](#)

# Summer Conference


Come and network with like-minded councils




14 July 2026



9:30 - 16:00

 **Website** [www.lalc.co.uk](http://www.lalc.co.uk)

 **Location** Epic Centre, Lincs Showground,  
LN2 2NA

**£45 plus VAT per delegate**

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## Vacancy advertising

LALC can advertise your vacancy on our website and in the fortnightly eNews. This is a **free** service. If you do not have a pre-prepared advert to send us, please complete our Vacancy Template, which can be found in the Members Portal under Document Templates.

We also offer a **paid** advertising service, which ensures that your advert also appears on Lincolnshire County Council's website, Facebook, and LinkedIn (in addition to the LALC website and eNews). The current fee for this is £80. Please complete the Vacancy Template (as above), ensuring that all requested information is completed, and then contact us at [enquiries@lalc.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@lalc.co.uk). You will be invoiced for this service.

Please note that Lincolnshire County Council require a closing date on their advert, as well as salary information (these are mandatory fields). LCC will remove your advert once the closing date has passed, so please consider the date carefully as you will have to pay again to re-advertise if your vacancy hasn't been filled by then. We recommend all councils advertise their vacancy, job details, method of application and up to date contact details on their own website too.

Please let us know when the vacancy has been filled, so that we can remove it from our website/eNews. If your vacancy has not yet been filled and you are continuing to advertise, please let us know of any revised closing date. **If you no longer specify a closing date, please let us know so that we can update the vacancy adverts.**

Current vacancies	Position	Closing date
<u>Brookenby Parish Council</u>	Clerk/RFO	No closing date
<u>Great Coates Village Council</u>	Clerk/RFO	20 <sup>th</sup> February 2026
<u>Holbeach Parish Council</u>	Temporary Acting Clerk	No closing date
<u>Holbeach Parish Council</u>	Temporary Acting RFO	No closing date
<u>Holbeach Parish Council</u>	Temporary Acting Clerk & RFO	No closing date
<u>North Somercotes Parish Council</u>	Clerk/RFO	17 <sup>th</sup> May 2026
<u>Corby Glen Parish Council</u>	Clerk/RFO	8 <sup>th</sup> May 2026
<u>Navenby Parish Council</u>	Clerk	27 <sup>th</sup> May 2026
<u>Navenby Parish Council</u>	RFO	27 <sup>th</sup> May 2026
<u>Benington Parish Council</u>	Clerk	15 <sup>th</sup> May 2026
<u>Ruskington Parish Council</u>	Parish Caretaker	24 <sup>th</sup> May 2026
<u>Farnsfield Parish Council (Notts).</u>	Clerk/RFO	5 <sup>th</sup> May 2026
<u>Ashby de la Launde and Bloxholm with Temple Bruer and Temple High Grange Parish Council</u>	Clerk	1 <sup>st</sup> July 2026
<u>Langtoft Parish Council</u>	Clerk/RFO	19 <sup>th</sup> June 2026
<u>Bigby Parish Council</u>	Clerk/RFO	30 <sup>th</sup> June 2026
<u>Leverton Parish Council</u>	Clerk/RFO	31 <sup>st</sup> July 2026

