

Do you have news to share? Get in touch via our website.

LALC will provide links but is not responsible for the content of external websites.

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 should be circulated to all councillors. This eNews can also be found on the LALC website under News.

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 councillors on the LALC portal, you will be able to select their correct email address from a drop down list when booking the training.



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If you update your council email and are **already** booked on training, please let us know so that we can update your booking to ensure you receive the automatic reminders.

If one of your councillors resigns, and they were booked on LALC training, **please cancel their place**, so that others can book on. Failure to do so may not only deprive other councils from attending but could result in a non-attendance charge (see below).

Please note our training cancellation policy:

- For part day courses please ensure we receive cancellations at least 48 hours in advance
- For full day events please ensure we receive cancellations at least 5 working days in advance, as we need to pre-order and pay for lunches

Due to persistent non-attendance at booked events, it is unfortunate that LALC have had to amend the way we impose our cancellation fees. All members are charged 50% of the training cost when insufficient notice is received (as above) for non-attendance at training events. No shows will be charged at 100% of the course fee. All charges are regardless of whether the council is a member of the ATS or not.

Current vacancies	Position	Closing date	
Stubton Parish Council	Clerk/RFO	18 th November 2023	
Barrowby Parish Council	Clerk	16 th August 2024	
North Thoresby, Grainsby & Waithe Parish Council	Clerk/RFO	30 th July 2024	
<u>Utterby Parish Council</u>	Clerk/RFO	29 th July 2024	
East Keal Parish Council	Clerk/RFO	No closing date	
<u>Caistor Town Council</u>	Deputy Clerk	26 th July 2024	
Grainthorpe Parish Council	Clerk/RFO	No closing date	
Scampton Parish Council	Clerk/RFO	31 st August 2024	
Gainsborough Town Council	Operations Manager	23 rd August 2024	
Silk Willoughby Parish Council	Clerk/RFO	No closing date	
Chapel St Leonards Parish Council	Assistant Parish Clerk	6 th September 2024	

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 £75. Please complete the Vacancy Template (as above), ensuring that all requested information is completed, and then contact us at enquiries@lalc.co.uk. You will be invoiced for this service.

9th August 2024



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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.

The NALC Recruitment Manual (developed as part of the Civility & Respect project) is now available via the portal. Go into Knowledgebase and click on 'Recruitment Manual' in the 'Employment' menu area.

Sign up to the LCC Town and Parishes newsletter – email:

lcctownandparishnews@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Latest News

To see the latest NALC news: https://www.nalc.gov.uk/news

To see the latest SLCC news: https://www.slcc.co.uk/news-publications/

(No login is required).

Are you interested in becoming a LALC internal auditor?

We are looking for suitably experienced people to join the LALC Internal Audit team. Preference will be given to officers or councillors with relevant experience of local council accounts and admin procedures.

In the first instance, please register your interest at enquiries@lalc.co.uk.

Looking for expressions of interest in the new LALC committees

LALC is looking to set up a number of committees who will investigate key topics in the sector:



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- Climate change
- Recruitment of clerks and appropriate pay structure
- Engaging younger councillors

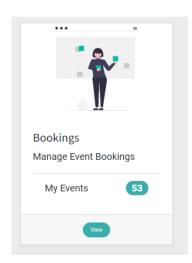
We are also open to suggestions for further topics/committees. If you are interested in being involved in one of these committees, please contact us at enquiries@lalc.co.uk, stating what you are interested in.

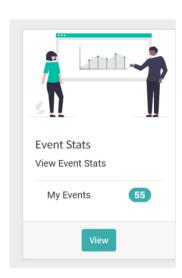
Enhancements to the LALC portal

A number of enhancements have recently gone live on the LALC portal:

Bookings information.

When logged into the portal, you will now see two new cards: Bookings and Event Stats.





Under Bookings you can view all your council's event (course) registrations, filter them, sort them and export them - as well as cancel qualifying bookings (as long as the cancellation policy for the event allows this). You can also access the Event Stats card from here.

Under Event Stats you can break down your bookings by event, filter, sort and export.

Picking up contact information

When making a booking for an event (course), we have found that users often enter incorrect email addresses for the attendee. This means that the automatic email notifications (confirming registration, sending out reminders and the training link, if remote) are rejected as the email address is unknown.



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Under the new enhancement, **if** you have set your councillors up (under your Organisation), you will now see all their email addresses in the drop-down list when making a booking. Just select the correct one.

If you do not have any councillors set up, the drop-down list will be blank, and you will be able to type the email address in.

If you do not have the email address set up for the particular councillor you want to book on, you will be able to type the email address in.

Please note that manually typing in an email address in the booking **does not** automatically set up the councillor under your organisation.

LALC Internal Audit Service – rates for 2024/25

LALC's Management Committee has now agreed the new internal audit fees for 2024/25. The standard audit fee for the council's relevant electorate banding applies, plus the fee for any of the bolt-on areas, if applicable:

			Bolt-ons					
Electorate banding	Approx hrs	Standard Audit Fee	Allotments	Burials	Markets	Community Buildings	Other	Charity Trustees
0-250	4.5	137.50	10	10	10	10	10	10
251-500	5	165	10	10	10	10	10	10
501-1000	6	220	10	10	10	10	10	10
1001-2500	7	275	10	10	10	10	10	10
2501-5000	8	330	10	10	10	10	10	10
5001-7500	9	385	10	10	10	10	10	10
7501-10,000	10	440	10	10	10	10	10	10
Over 10,000	11+	495	10	10	10	10	10	10

The fee covers 1 mid-year full audit plus end of year mini audit and completion of the AGAR Internal Audit form.

For any council requiring 2 mid-year full audits plus end of year mini audit and completion of the AGAR Internal Audit form, the fee will be doubled.

REMINDER: NALC Star Council Awards nominations are open

Nominations are open for the NALC Star Council Awards 2024 to celebrate the achievements of the local (parish and town) council sector.

9th August 2024



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The Star Council Awards are the only awards programme in England specifically designed to acknowledge the impact and contribution of local councils in their communities. The awards are open to all local councils, councillors, clerks, and county associations across England.

Entrants can apply for six award categories: Council of the Year, Councillor of the Year, Young Councillor of the Year, County Association of the Year, Clerk of the Year, and Climate Response of the Year. The award categories have been carefully selected to recognise excellence in different areas of local council operations and highlight the varied contributions made by councils.

This year, we've introduced a new award dedicated to climate response. This award will recognise the proactive efforts of councils in addressing climate change, emphasising the importance of their role in mitigating impacts, adapting to new conditions, and building resilience for both people and nature. By highlighting successful long-term strategies and community engagement, it aims to inspire other councils to take similar actions for a sustainable future.

NALC chair, Cllr Keith Stevens, commented, "We are excited to honour and celebrate the remarkable achievements of parish and town councils and individuals who have gone above and beyond in their dedication to supporting their communities. Their exceptional efforts and unwavering commitment deserve recognition and applause."

The nomination period ends on **6 September 2024**, and the winners will be announced at a ceremony in the House of Lords, where they will be presented with their awards.

Clear Councils Insurance, Blachere Illumination, CCLA, Cloudy IT and Facilitating the Future sponsor the awards.

Find out more: https://www.nalc.gov.uk/starcouncilawards

NEW: Employment law briefing announced for October

September 2024 sees the introduction of new statutory obligations for Councils to prevent sexual harassment of their employees. Furthermore, October will see the introduction of new entitlements for locums and other staff working on fixed term contracts, to request that the contract be extended for a longer period or made permanent.

To enable councils to respond to these new entitlements, as well as bring them up to date with new employment laws that are planned for 2025, Chris Moses will be conducting a 1 hour Zoom meeting to provide members with the information they need to know.

When: Thursday 10th October 2024, 10:00 – 11:00

9th August 2024



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Please note that this training will use a Zoom link provided by Chris and not the usual LALC Zoom link. The link will be sent out in advance of the training.

Please book via the LALC portal in the usual way.

CLARIFICATION – Are Councillors volunteers?

There may have been some confusion caused recently in material originating from third parties, suggesting that councillors are unpaid volunteers.

LALC would like to clarify that councillors are not volunteers in the common use of the word. They are elected representatives of the council and holders of public office. Councillors are summoned to attend meetings, have specific responsibilities, are bound by laws and are required to meet specific standards. Whilst many are unpaid, in some councils, councillors can receive an allowance.

LCC Town and Parish Council update

In the latest LCC Town and Parish Council Newsletter, LCC is starting to prepare for the winter gritting season and is asking local councils to check the grit bins in your parish and report any that are less than half full or are damaged – these can be reported via FixMyStreet (www.fixmystreet.com).

LCC are also offering all town and parish councils delivery of a one tonne bag of salt for this winter. Measuring $1.2m \times 1m \times 1.2m$ the bags ideally need to be stored off the ground to remain dry.

To get the salt, please request one before Monday 30 September: https://tinyurl.com/2dnx89pk

Groundwater issues in Cemeteries and Burial Grounds

During the recent LALC Conference some parish and town councils raised concerns that rising groundwater was an increasing issue in some parishes affecting their cemeteries, churchyards and burial grounds. If you have a cemetery or burial ground and it suffers from high groundwater levels with risk of flooding please contact Lincolnshire County Council's Flood Risk Team on lnnovative.Resilience@lincolnshire.gov.uk. The Team will then potentially have a wider sample to undertake investigations into this issue.

If your council is affected, please state the location of the graveyard (address, postcode, what3words etc), if you have undertaken any investigations and what mitigation measures have been put in place so far. The Flood Risk Team will collate it for their hydrogeologists and go from there. If there have been no investigations/mitigations so far please state this – just explain what the groundwater flood risk issues are.

9th August 2024



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Your assistance with this project is appreciated.

Vicky Jones Flood Resilience Programme Co-Ordinator Lincolnshire County Council County Offices, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YL Mobile: 07436 057029

Gallagher – Latest Community Matters

The latest edition of Gallagher Community Matters can be read here: https://tinyurl.com/yaa4ybz8

Featuring:

- Understanding the hazards in green spaces.
- Navigating the fire hazard of e-bikes.
- Top tips on promoting your events in your local community and risk management tips for summer events.

GRASSroots scheme

Several projects in East Lindsey have been awarded grants in the latest round of funding from Lincolnshire Community Foundation's GRASSroots scheme.

The projects include:

- Coningsby Town Council Revitalisation of skate park.
- Burgh Le Marsh Town Council Restoration of historic features within the town, including heritage railings, the replacement of the Tinkers Green entrance gates and new sheltered seating.
- Binbrook Parish Council Renovations to green spaces and improvements to encourage physical activity for residents, including exercise equipment and play equipment for young people.

Another round of funding is now open. The themes of the fund are focussed on the betterment of community buildings and spaces, and to bring pride of place to communities. The closing date for applications is **1 September**.

Read all about it here: https://tinyurl.com/bdh3pj8y

Details and applications: https://lincolnshirecf.co.uk/grants/grassroots/

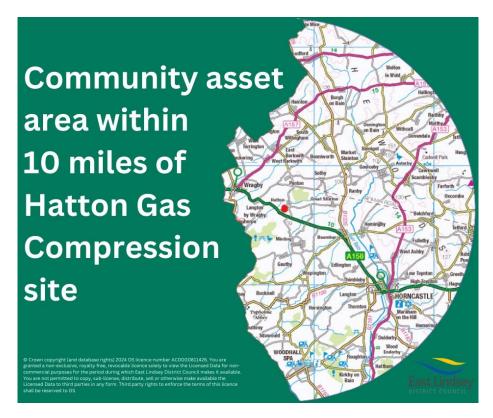


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Opportunity for Community Centres in the Hatton area

Volunteers running community centres and village halls in the Hatton area can now apply for funding to make their facilities more energy efficient, thanks to a £162,500 grant from National Gas to East Lindsey District Council. This funding aims to support energy efficiency improvements and train local volunteers as community energy champions. Cllr Graham Marsh said, "Village halls and community centres are vital for village life. This funding helps ensure they're warm in winter and reduce energy costs." Interested volunteers within 10 miles of Hatton, please contact our Sustainable Development Officer, Dean Hempsall, at dean.hempsall@e-lindsey.gov.uk by Friday 30 August for more information and to apply.



Volunteer Opportunity – Be a CCTV Spotter

Are you passionate about community safety? Want to make a difference? Join our team of volunteer CCTV spotters based at Boston Borough Council!

About Us: Our extensive network of CCTV cameras covers many towns across East Lindsey, Boston Borough, South Holland, and North Kesteven District Council areas. Operated by Boston Borough Council, our system is at the heart of Boston Town Centre, with satellite reviewing suites in Spalding, Skegness, and Mablethorpe Police Stations.

9th August 2024



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Volunteers will always be completing their role alongside a SIA Licensed CCTV operator. While our skilled CCTV Operators keep a watchful eye on live camera feeds, we're looking for volunteer spotters to lend an extra pair of eyes!

Your Role:

- Monitor live camera feeds to spot incidents as they happen.
- Provide valuable evidence for the Police and Councils when preparing cases for Court.
- Help keep our communities safe and secure.

Requirements:

- No experience necessary training provided!
- Good attention to detail.
- Commitment to regular shifts (flexible hours available).
- Over 18s only.

Benefits:

- Be part of a vital community safety initiative.
- Gain valuable skills in surveillance and incident reporting.
- Make a positive impact on your town.

How to apply: Please contact the Volunteer Coordinator Alison Carlisle for more information and an application form — alison.carlisle@e-lindsey.gov.uk

Paul Drury - Lincolnshire Armed Forces Covenant

Following on from the session at the recent LALC Summer Conference, please see Paul Drury's contact details below:











Lincolnshire Armed Forces Community Covenant Officer

Tel: +441529404464 | Mob: +447356175328 Email: Paul_Drury@n-kesteven.gov.uk www.n-kesteven.gov.uk

Kesteven Street, Sleaford, NG34 7EF





9th August 2024



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Government seeking views of proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

The government is seeking views on proposed changes to the NPPF to support its wider objective "to achieve sustainable growth in our planning system" and "commitments to achieve economic growth and build 1.5 million new homes".

Read more:

https://www.slcc.co.uk/government-seeking-views-of-proposed-changes-to-the-national-planning-policy-framework-nppf/

SLCC intends to respond to the consultation. If you would like to contribute to our response, please send your comments by email to Andrew Towlerton, SLCC National Planning Advisor, at andrew.towlerton@slcc.co.uk by close of play Tuesday 17 September.

NALC is also seeking views from local councils on the government's proposed reforms to the NPPF and other changes to the planning system: https://tinyurl.com/3x27unwv. The deadline for this survey is 9 September.

More information about the consultation: https://tinyurl.com/586zf8ah

SLCC: Local Government Pay Claim 2024/25 - Update

One union (GMB) has accepted this year's offer, but it has been rejected by the two other unions, UNISON and UNITE. Both organisations are now moving to a ballot for industrial action of their members. UNITE have advised that their ballot will begin on 27 August and end on 15 October while the UNISON ballot will start on 4 September and finish on 16 October.

Therefore, the pay award from 1 April 2024 will AGAIN be delayed until mid to late October at the earliest.

The national employers advise very strongly against imposing any pay offer before the collective bargaining process has concluded. To do so would not only fragment the unity of the employers' position but would also leave councils vulnerable to questions being asked by auditors about why, in the absence of a national collective agreement, expenditure has been unnecessarily incurred. There are also legal considerations and previous caselaw on this question.

Get a free ride on Callconnect

Lincolnshire's Callconnect, the on-demand bus service run by the county council, is running a special summer promotion to get even more people using the service. With a single fare capped at £2, Callconnect offers a fantastic and cost-effective way to get around the county at the fraction of the cost of a car or

9th August 2024



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train. Now, until Saturday 7 September, Callconnect is offering each new passenger a free return journey. Not needing a return journey for your trip? No problem, because the promotion also includes the option of two single trips for free if a return isn't needed in the one-time deal. Download the 'Callconnect – DRT' app and give it a try.

Find out more: https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/news/article/1955/want-a-free-journey-on-callconnect

LCC consultation on our preferred approach to the future planning of waste and minerals in Lincolnshire

Many of the things we see around us and use in daily life are made from minerals found in Lincolnshire, including items like cosmetics, clothing and even toothpaste.

Our famous landmarks – including Lincoln Cathedral, Lincoln Castle and Boston Stump – are largely made from locally sourced limestone. Limestone is also used extensively across the town of Stamford and surrounding villages. Other building stones – like marlstone and sandstone – are found in north and south Lincolnshire.

In Lincolnshire, such materials are often reused, recycled and recovered to make new things, like clean energy from waste and construction products. Lincolnshire is an important producer of minerals and is currently the largest producer of sand and gravel in the East Midlands. Over 2 million tonnes of waste are collected every year from households, businesses and other organisations across the county, which needs to be recycled or treated to avoid landfill disposal as far as possible.

We need to develop a new long-term plan to ensure Lincolnshire can continue to produce the minerals we need sustainably, and we can manage waste appropriately over the next 15 years. This is called the Minerals and Waste Local Plan.

Further details on this consultation can be found at www.letstalk.lincolnshire.gov.uk

All responses and site nominations must be received no later than 5pm on 24 September 2024.

Following consultation, we will update the draft plan and once adopted, it will replace the current plan from 2026.

South Kesteven Community Awards

Nominations for the South Kesteven Community Awards are now open.

The categories are:

9th August 2024



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- Inspirational young person
- Community contribution by business
- The Judy Smith lifetime community champion
- The Neil Smith beyond the call of duty award
- Community in bloom award

Closing date: 20th September

Read more: https://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/skcommunityawards

Share your memories: Help West Lindsey District Council celebrate its golden anniversary



Read more: https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/council-news/2024/08/share-your-memories-celebrate-our-golden-anniversary-us

NALC: Annual analysis of precepts for 2024/2025

NALC) has published its annual analysis of council tax levels of local precepting authorities, including local (parish and town) councils, for the 2024/25 financial year.

9th August 2024



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The report, based on data provided by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), sheds light on key trends and changes in local precepts.

Key headlines from this year's analysis include:

- The total amount raised by precepting local councils is now £781 million, an increase of £75 million or 10.62% on the 2023/24 figure of £706 million.
- The average Band D precept charged by local precepting bodies (including local councils) for 2024/25 is £85.89, an increase of £6.76 or 8.5%.
- 124 local councils now raise a precept of at least £1 million, an increase of 20 on the 2023/24 figure of 104.
- 33 local councils started raising a precept for the first time in 2024/25.
- The county area with the largest precept income is Yorkshire, where 852 local councils collectively raise £32 million, while the county areas with the smallest precept income are Cleveland, where 52 councils collectively raise £1.8 million and the Isle of Wight, where 33 local councils collectively raise £6.5 million.

Lincolnshire statistics:

- The average precept increase is 4.79% on last year
- The average Band D increase is 6.64%
- Total of precepts is £15,219,385
- Average Band D is £76.14
- Highest overall Band D is Bassingham (£240.96)
- Highest precepting council is North Hykeham (£814,582)

See the full analysis: https://www.nalc.gov.uk/library/news-stories/4117-briefing-council-tax-2024/file

NALC Young councillors meet to discuss diverse representation and youth engagement

NALC national network for young councillors met on 23 July 2024 to discuss significant developments and strategies aimed at improving governance through diverse representation and youth engagement.

The meeting addressed the need for improved training and development for young professionals in the sector. Additionally, the potential benefits of work experience placements were highlighted, with calls for broader promotion of such initiatives.

The meeting reinforced the importance of staying involved in the network and fostering a supportive community to drive forward the sector's future development.

Read the blog: https://tinyurl.com/4epvfhu8