



## **Notts ALC Newsletter December 2023**

*\*sent to Chairs and Clerks - please kindly forward to all councillors\**

**New Email Addresses | Training | Surveys |  
NALC | Cold Weather | Christmas Comms |  
Martyn's Law | HR updates | PCC | East Midlands Councils |**

### **Notts ALC – new email addresses**

Following the launch of our new website, [www.nottsalc.com](http://www.nottsalc.com), we now have new email addresses.

[queries@nottsalc.com](mailto:queries@nottsalc.com) – for queries/advice

[ceo@nottsalc.com](mailto:ceo@nottsalc.com) – for Kaffy

[admin@nottsalc.com](mailto:admin@nottsalc.com) – for Julie (finance, admin)

[training@nottsalc.com](mailto:training@nottsalc.com) – for Sue (training)

Our old email address will stop working in late December so please update your contact books.

Thank you to those of you who have requested membership of the new website – the members' area is still in development so we will accept these requests when there is a member area to access! Thank you also for the positive feedback we have had about the layout of the new website.

## Notts ALC – Training

All training currently arranged for 2024 (including both zoom and face-to-face sessions for New Councillor and Code of Conduct) is listed [here](#) and is bookable now.

We will alert you to additional sessions as we arrange them through the year; in addition to more New Councillor and Code of Conduct sessions, these are likely to include:

- Cemetery Management (April)
- Planning Nuts & Bolts (June)
- Charing Skills (June)
- Playground Safety (Sept)
- Allotments (Nov)
- Employment/HR (Dec)

We would also like to recommend the courses of our partners Breakthrough Communications and Parkinson Partnership – these are offered by arrangement to our members and you will be invoiced by us. In particular you may be interested in:

**BREAKTHROUGH COMMUNICATIONS:** Click [here](#) to book.

- **FOI for councils** – requirements and obligations under the Act and what policies and procedures to have in place (22<sup>nd</sup> Jan 1pm)
- **Dealing with difficult people and conversations** – practical techniques and ideas to manage difficult people and conversations in a council environment (24<sup>th</sup> Jan 1.30pm)

**PARKINSON PARTNERSHIP:** Click [here](#) to book.

- **Internal controls** – gives councillors and clerks an understanding of the need for internal financial controls (13<sup>th</sup> December 10am)
- **Finance for Councillors** – to give councillors a greater understanding of their duties with regard to finance (16<sup>th</sup> Jan 10am)

## Notts ALC – Surveys

1. Thank you to those of you who have filled in our survey about **energy infrastructure projects**. If you haven't already, please do fill it in by Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September. The form can be found [HERE](#).
2. In conjunction with Rural Community Action for Nottinghamshire, we are running a **wide-ranging survey** to understand more about the wants and needs of parish and town councils across the county, so that as the support sector we can look to provide the best possible service to you. Clerks and any councillors are invited to fill in the survey, which can be found [here](#).

# National Association of Local Councils (NALC)

## **STAR COUNCIL AWARDS**

Jonathan Owen of NALC writes: “We announced our Star Council Awards winners at a dazzling ceremony held on 29 November 2023 at our parliamentary reception in the prestigious House of Lords. Hosted by NALC's president, Baroness Scott of Needham Market, the prestigious and packed-out event brought together councillors, clerks, MPs, Peers, academics, stakeholders, journalists and other leading opinion formers to celebrate the sector and recognise those individuals and organisations that have demonstrated exceptional dedication in supporting their communities.” You can read more about the event [here](#).

Notts ALC Chair Mick Baker and CEO Kaffy Rice-Oxley were pleased to attend this ceremony and to take the opportunity to talk to NALC officers and sponsors. (Pictured: Baroness Scott, NALC President; Cllr Baker and Kaffy Rice-Oxley)



## **FOOD INSECURITY BLOG**

See [here](#) for a blog from The Health Foundation, recommending what councils can do to tackle food insecurity in their community.

## **NALC NETWORKS**

NALC have national networks for groups including women councillors, young councillors (under 40) and LGBT+ councillors – do spread the word and encourage eligible councillors to sign up to a network group [here](#).

## **COUNCIL PRECEPT REPORT**

NALC has unveiled its annual analysis of local precepting authorities' council tax levels, including local councils, for the fiscal year 2023/24. The report is available [here](#).

## **WHITE RIBBON**

NALC is now a [White Ribbon](#) accredited organisation, supporting the campaign to end violence against women and girls. You can find out more about the campaign and key takeaways in a blog [here](#).

## **NALC RESOURCES**

There are very many useful resources on the NALC website. We recommend that all councils have a look at the large number of resources available via the [Civility and Respect Project](#), which seeks to foster positive relationships within councils at all levels and thereby increase wellbeing and efficacy in the community.

## **NALC EVENTS**

NALC runs lots of useful events on national issues affecting local councils – see [here](#) for the upcoming events list.

## Cold weather – useful info for councils

1. Cold-Health Alert (CHA) action cards summarise suggested actions to be taken by different professional bodies and organisations in the event of cold weather. The one for our sector is [here](#).
2. Met Office Weather Ready – a poster and graphics to use on your social media and emails can be found [here](#).

## Christmas Communications – free resource pack

Our partners Breakthrough Communications have prepared a free comms resource pack for councils to use on their emails and social media this Christmas – you can find it [here](#).

## Martyn's Law

Thank you to those of you who attended the recent briefing by NALC and the SLCC. At the session we were told that Martyn's Law will affect all councils with a building of capacity 100+ or running events for 800+ people. It will mean that such councils must engage with advice and training, conduct vulnerability assessments, mitigate identified risks and develop and implement security plans. Resources are available from the Home Office [here](#).

## HR updates

Please see attached a document from our HR partner Chris Moses, covering: councillors acting alone in HR matters (spoiler alert – it isn't allowed!), employee resignations, and statutory payment rates from April.

## Update from PCC Caroline Henry

### Have your say... on Neighbourhood Policing

"Part of my duty as Police and Crime Commissioner is to support, challenge and hold the Chief Constable to account for delivering an efficient and effective policing service for Nottinghamshire. One of the ways that I do this is by holding a monthly Accountability Board. This meeting allows me to scrutinise Nottinghamshire Police on behalf of the public. During my December meeting we are focusing on Neighbourhood Policing across our force area and I want you to be a part of this by submitting your own questions. To put your question forward for this meeting please submit [here](#) before **Wednesday 6 December** 2023. You can find out more about my Accountability Board and future topics we are covering by visiting: [Accountability Board \(pcc.police.uk\)](https://pcc.police.uk)"

## Update from East Midlands Councils

“On Wednesday 22 November, Chancellor Jeremy Hunt delivered his Autumn Statement, covering a variety of areas, including changes to welfare, tax cuts and support for British businesses. In the East Midlands, we saw announcements for a new investment zone, as well as a deal to bring devolution to Greater Lincolnshire. In the statement, the Government said the **East Midlands Investment Zone** would focus on green industries and advanced manufacturing and help leverage £383 million in private investment, as well as supporting 4,200 jobs in the region over the next 10 years. It will cover parts of Nottinghamshire, Derby and Derbyshire, with anchor investment from Rolls Royce in Derby and engineering and construction giant Laing O’Rourke valued at £9.3 million.”

Additionally, the Department of Transport has said that £138,443,000 will be spent on improving Nottinghamshire’s roads.

***MAY WE TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO WISH ALL OUR PARISH COUNCILS, TOWN COUNCILS AND PARISH MEETINGS A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.***

Our Office hours are M-F 10am-3pm. The office will close at 3pm on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December and reopen at 10am on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January.

With best wishes,

Notts ALC



Minster Chambers, Church Street, Southwell NG25 0HD

**President: Ivor Walker Chair: Cllr Mick Baker CEO: Kaffy Rice-Oxley**

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