

## Newsletter – December 2021 (2)

Derbyshire Association of Local Councils



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#### [1 – Help stop violence against women](#)

As part of VAWG (national strategy to tackle **V**iolence **A**gainst **W**omen and **G**irls), Derbyshire's Crime Commissioner Angelique Foster has appealed to females in Derbyshire to [complete a short survey](#) to help inform Government policy. She said: "We are seeking the views of as many women and girls in Derbyshire as possible, so please send out this link to your workplace, friends, family and contacts throughout the county."

#### [2 – Take your qualifications to the next level?](#)

"Whilst CilCA gives you a great grounding in the role of a clerk, this takes is to another level", says Samantha Heynes of Cuckfield PC, talking about SLCC's Community Governance qualification. Based around distance learning and residential study days, these De Montfort University qualifications range from a Certificate of Higher Education (level 4), through Foundation Degree (level 5), to an Honour Degree (level 6). Registration for 2022 courses closes on December 17<sup>th</sup> – [full details can be found here.](#)

#### [3 – New NALC chair elected](#)

Taking over from Cllr Sue Baxter, the new chair of NALC is Cllr Keith Stevens, of Wartling Parish Council in East Sussex. He's been NALC's vice-chair (finance) for the past four years, and commented: "One of my priorities will be ensuring local councils are recognised and acknowledged as the first tier of local government."

#### **4 – Making your council a better boss**

It's not just lorry drivers who are in short supply, it seems qualified clerks and skilled council staff are too... Describing it as a 'perfect storm' of circumstances, our HR expert Chris Moses believes a range of issues (including the infamous 'Handforth effect'!) has led to recruitment challenges across the sector. His latest bulletin – [titled 'Creating Rewarding Jobs'](#) – outlines how councils, as employers, can make their staff roles more appealing.

#### **5 – Get writing... for a new precept deal**

As we all know, budgeting is difficult enough without uncertainty over precept. As yet, the Government still hasn't confirmed whether they'll allow local councils to increase the precept to meet local needs, or apply a percentage increase limit. NALC is once again lobbying to ensure a 'no-limit' decision, and is also pushing for a multi-year settlement – enabling local councils to budget ahead with confidence. As part of this campaign, they're urging local councils to write to their MP; relevant points can be found in the 'fair and secure funding' section of [NALC's spending review submission here](#).

#### **6 – Police Liaison – all welcome to attend re-scheduled meeting on December 8th**

After last month's meeting was derailed by Covid, we've rescheduled for Superintendent Jed Keen – who is currently leading the Derbyshire force's 'Cost of Policing' exercise - to attend our online Police Liaison meeting on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Councillors, Chair and Clerks are welcome to attend.

Topic: Police and Parish/ Town Council Liaison Meeting - Wednesday 8th December 2.30pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87102810653?pwd=RXJWU0ZTaXhrc1IOS2gwc0JUN0VFZz09>

Meeting ID: 871 0281 0653

Passcode: 172204

One tap mobile: 02034815240,,87102810653#,,,,\*172204# United Kingdom

#### **7 – Clerks' Forum meeting (Xmas fancy dress encouraged!)**

Topic: DALC - Clerks' Forum Wednesday 8th December 2021, 1.00pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89547670473?pwd=YIM1M3prbXhUKzhkNW9EaFBIS3FVUT09>

Meeting ID: 895 4767 0473

Passcode: 656427

One tap mobile: 02080806592,,89547670473#,,,,\*656427# United Kingdom

### **8 – Training courses coming up**

Clerk Essentials: Monday/Tuesday 10/11<sup>th</sup> January, 10am – 12 noon

Resilience, Wellbeing and Mental Health: Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January, 9.30am – 12.30pm

Chair Skills: Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January, 10.00am – 12.30pm

Councillor Essentials: Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 6.00 – 8.30pm

Climate Actions for Councils and Communities: Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 10.00am – 12.30pm

### **9 – Green Book pay dispute update**

Councils are reminded that this year's unresolved 'Green Book' pay settlement (unions rejected a 1.75% offer) will have budget implications as we move towards the next financial year. Unions are currently timetabling ballots for industrial action.

### **10 – Omicron; Call for choice over remote meetings**

As Omicron continues to spread, pressure is increasing on the Government to allow councils to decide whether to hold 'in-person' or remote meetings. NALC is actively 'pro-choice', and has urged councils and councillors to write to their local MP to help strengthen the case. They've produced [two model letters here](#), which outline the arguments for giving councils flexibility and choice.

### **11 – Christmas closing at the DALC office**

The DALC office will be closed from 20<sup>th</sup> December to 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022. Wendy will continue to check emails and voice messages and will, of course, reply to anything urgent during this time. Please direct all emails to [chiefofficer@derbyshirealc.gov.uk](mailto:chiefofficer@derbyshirealc.gov.uk) during this period.

And finally, all of us here at DALC would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas, and best wishes for a safe and healthy 2022!

With best regards,

Wendy Amis – Chief Officer

December 2021

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