



10th April 2026

County Views: tell us what you think about our coast

Lincolnshire County Council wants to hear from you! Our County Views surveys run three times a year and give us a quick snapshot of how we are doing. Your feedback helps shape services for people across the county.

This time, we're asking for your thoughts on the Lincolnshire Coast and our part of the King Charles III England Coast path.

Have you used the path when visiting the Lincolnshire coast? Do you have any suggestions for improvements to make it easier to use and enjoy?

Every response counts! Please take part by visiting [Let's talk Lincolnshire](#) and tell us what you think. The survey is open until 18 May 2026.

Thank you for helping us make Lincolnshire an even better place to live and work.

Councillor Induction & Refresher - in person event

Now announced and available to book:

Councillor Induction & Refresher training
13th May 2026, 18:00 - 21:00

Mareham le Fen Community Centre, Horncastle Road, Mareham le Fen, PE22 7QL

NALC publishes Practitioners Guide 2026-27

NALC have published the Practitioners' Guide applicable for financial year 2026-27.

The new Guide and a document detailing all the changes introduced for 2026-27 can be downloaded from the [LALC website here](#).

Vacancy - LALC Webmaster & Website Support

Permanent Contract – Minimum 12 hours per week

LALC is recruiting a **Webmaster** on a permanent contract for a minimum of **12 hours per week**, with some flexibility around additional hours. Home working is acceptable, although there will be an expectation of occasional attendance at the office; this can be discussed further at interview.

The Webmaster will be responsible for administering and maintaining **member parish council websites**, provided by Lincolnshire County Council and built using the **Jadu Content Management System**.

In addition, it is hoped the same candidate will be able to support LALC officers with ad hoc administration and maintenance of the **LALC CRM** and website, which run on the **Junari Content Management System**.

Further details and a copy of the job description can be [found here](#).

Salary: SCP 18 - 21 (£16.14 - £17.83 per hour) (£31,143.63 to £34,394.19 FTE) depending on experience.

Closing date: 24th April, with interviews expected week commencing 4th May.

Parish and town councils are investing more in their communities

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has published council tax levels set by councils in England for the financial year 2026/27, showing that parish and town councils are investing more in their communities.

[Read more](#) (no NALC login required)

Latest News

[NALC news](#) (NALC login may be required)

[SLCC news](#) (No SLCC login required)

[LCC Parish and Town Council Newsletter](#)

[Clear Councils Newsletter](#)

CiLCA congratulations!

Congratulations to Susie Crowe of Skegness Town Council, upon completion of CiLCA.

Government approves UK's largest solar farm

Source: BBC

The UK's largest power-producing solar farm has been approved by the government after a planning inquiry.

The Springwell Solar Farm, between Lincoln and Sleaford, will power 180,000 homes, developer EDF power solutions UK said.

The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero gave the go ahead despite opposition from residents.

The site, near Navenby, will cover an area the size of 1,700 football pitches and incorporate a battery storage facility.

Opponents raised concerns about the loss of farmland, the impact on the landscape and the safety of the lithium-ion batteries.

[Read the full story here.](#)

LCC road surfacing programme is in progress

[Track daily planned roadworks here.](#)

NALC launches new toolkit to strengthen parish and town councils' voice in parliament

We have launched a new toolkit to help parish and town councils and county associations strengthen their engagement with MPs and other parliamentarians, ensuring the voice of local communities is heard more clearly at a national level.

Our Engaging Parliament Toolkit, created in partnership with Connect Public Affairs, provides practical guidance, tools and insights to help build effective relationships with decision-makers across Westminster. It sets out how to confidently champion the sector's priorities and strengthen their engagement with parliamentarians.

With 10,000 parish and town councils and 100,000 councillors across England, our collective voice is powerful. As new opportunities arise, working together has never been more important to ensure the most local tier of government is heard, supported, and empowered.

[Access the toolkit](#) (no NALC login required)

Parish and town councils are investing more in their communities

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has published council tax levels set by councils in England for the financial year 2026/27, showing that parish and town councils are investing more in their communities.

Key highlights:

- Parish precepts in 2026/27 will total £942 million, which is £83 million higher than in 2025/26 and 2.0% of the overall council tax.
- The average Band D precept charged by local precepting bodies (including parish and town councils) for 2026/27 will be £99.79, an increase of £7.59 or 8.2% in 2026/27.
- The average Band D council tax set by local authorities in England for 2026/27 will be £2,392, an increase of £111 or 4.9% from the 2025/26 figure of £2,171.

[Read more](#) (no NALC login required)

Local Government Pay Claim 2026/27

Source: SLCC

The National Employers have now responded to the Trade Unions' claim regarding the pay offer for 2026/27. This is a full and final offer of:

- a 3.3% increase on all SCP points from 1 April 2026
- all other parts of the unions claim are rejected.

Please note that this offer is for a **one year deal only**.

The current Consumer Prices Index for February was 3.2%.

The unions joint claim was submitted in December 2025, the National Employers consulted councils and met on 24 February and adjourned for private political discussions before coming back with this offer.

[Read more.](#)

Council Tax Rises By 4.9% As Increases Continue To Outpace Inflation

Source: Rural Services Network

Council tax for the average Band D property across England and Wales will rise by 4.9% in 2026/27, according to new analysis from CIPFA and Infoshare+.

The average Band D bill now stands at £2,348.08. While slightly lower than last year's 5.1% increase, the rise remains above January's inflation rate of 3.2%, meaning households will continue to see council tax increases outpace the cost of living.

For rural areas, these trends raise particular concern. RSN analysis of the Local Government Finance Settlement shows that rural residents will pay, on average, 17% more in council tax per head than their urban counterparts in 2026/27.

At the same time, urban councils are set to receive around 32% more per head in government-funded spending power, reinforcing long-standing disparities in how funding is allocated. Over the longer term, this gap widens further, with projections suggesting urban councils could see spending power increase by around 20% by 2028/29, compared to just 2% in rural areas.

[Read more here.](#)

Neighbourhood Planning Toolkits

The Government has produced a series of new toolkits to support communities to draft their Neighbourhood Plan in England. Each toolkit sets out, in detail, the processes and activities required to produce a neighbourhood plan, as well as providing best practice guidance.

The toolkits include:

- How to create a neighbourhood plan
- How to write planning policies for a neighbourhood plan
- How to assess and allocate sites for development

These toolkits are currently being updated to reflect recent updates to planning policy. This is expected to be completed by April 2027.

The toolkits should be read alongside separate Government guidance found under Neighbourhood Planning and the National Policy Planning Framework.

[You can find the toolkits here.](#)

NALC Blog - Friends of the Earth: What can parish and town councils do to help nature and tackle climate change?

Author: Sandra Bell, senior climate policy analyst at Friends of the Earth

Parish and town councils have the power to tackle the climate and nature emergencies at the local level. Friends of the Earth welcomes the action that parish, town, community and neighbourhood councils are taking to address the climate and nature crises.

As local councils, your great strength is that you're so well placed to work hand in hand with your communities. You can show leadership through your own actions and influence key decisions, such as planning and transport.

[Read the blog here](#) (no NALC login required).

NALC Legal Bulletin

Does a councillor commit an offence under the Bribery Act 2010 if they make a donation for selection boxes for local children?

We were asked about a scenario in which a councillor proposed donating £300 to their council to purchase chocolate selection boxes for local children attending a council Christmas event, prompting concern from another councillor that this could raise potential bribery issues under the Bribery Act 2010. The first point we made was that the council received a cash donation (under Section 139 of the Local Government Act 1972). The council's internal financial processes would detail the donation, so there would be a record of it. Our view on the bribery point was that for a matter to constitute bribery, there must be evidence that the donation was made for the purposes of obtaining a benefit that would not otherwise be available, whether or not the desired benefit was actually received. We could not see any evidence that the donor was seeking a benefit from the council.

Meeting notice — Press and public excluded

We were asked whether the ordinary notice requirements would still apply where a council had called an extraordinary meeting for the purpose of dealing with a matter that would be held in confidential session with the press and public excluded. Our view is yes, it would. Whether the press and public are excluded from a meeting or part of a meeting has no bearing on the statutory notice period. The notice requirements in Paragraph 10 (2) of Schedule 12 to the Local Government Act 1972 still apply.

Annual council meeting dates for councils with elections

We are asked every year if there is an election to provide dates for annual council meetings. The principle for our calculation remains the same every year. It is the dates that vary. The 2026 local election date is Thursday 7 May, and councillors will take office on Monday 11 May. Our view is that the relevant 14-day meeting period for Paragraph 7 (2) of Schedule 12 to the Local Government Act 1972 is Tuesday 12 May to Wednesday 27 May inclusive. We are aware that there have been different interpretations of the computation of days, and we have not counted Sundays in our 14-day calculation.

We are also asked about the earliest date a council annual meeting can be held where there is no contested election. Our view is that where there is no contested election, so it is known whom to summons, the summons can be served with the requisite three clear days' notice, which could be the day councillors take office. Parish and town councils have to know who they need to summons so notice cannot be given before the results are known, where there are contested elections.

CCTV and the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025

We have referred in previous bulletins to The Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 (the 2025 Act). Our view is that it will have limited application to the sector. The 2025 Act modifies the UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018 to improve clarity and streamline certain processes.

We were asked about council CCTV use. Our advice was that parish and town councils need to comply with the basic data protection framework when operating CCTV that captures personal data (people identifiable in footage), for example, CCTV use for safeguarding council property. The 2025 Act also introduces a new lawful basis in the GDPR framework for processing personal data: "recognised legitimate interests". It includes things like crime prevention and safeguarding vulnerable people. While the requirement for the processing to be necessary remains, the need for a detailed legitimate interests' assessment, which balances the data controller's interest against the individual's interest, has been removed. That could make it easier for parish and town councils to justify recording CCTV in some situations without needing a full balancing test, as long as rights and safeguards are respected. It does not replace existing legal bases. Parish and town councils still need to decide and document which legal basis will apply to their CCTV data (such as legitimate interests and legal obligation). Parish and town councils cannot just record and use footage without a lawful basis. The Information Commissioner's Office has produced a factsheet on this subject.

The 2025 Act is being commenced in stages, and we will issue advice as and when any further relevant points come into effect.

Use of the words "summons" and "summoned" in the meeting summons

We were asked if the meeting summons to members must include the word "summons" in order to be lawful and valid. Our advice was that Paragraph 10 (2) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972 says that three clear days at least before a meeting of a parish or town council a summons to attend the meeting, specifying the business proposed to be transacted at the meeting and certified by the proper officer of the council, shall be sent to every member of the council by an appropriate method.

The provision does not specify a form of words to be used or whether the word "summons" has to be used or the person "summoned". Our view was that specifying it makes it clear what it is, so it should be used as good practice and to avoid any uncertainty.

Disclaimer: Information and commentary on the law contained in this bulletin are provided free of charge for information purposes only. Whilst every reasonable effort is made to make the information and commentary accurate and up to date, no responsibility for its accuracy and correctness, or for any consequences of relying on it, is assumed by any member of NALC's legal team. The information and commentary do not, and are not intended to, amount to legal advice to any person on a specific case or matter. You are strongly advised to obtain specific advice about your case or matter and not to rely on the information or comments in this email.

Changes to Statutory Sick Pay

Source: SLCC

As of 6 April 2026, the first stage of the implementation of the Employment Rights Act 2025 will bring about changes to sick pay arrangements, as follows:

- Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) will be available to all eligible employees regardless of their earnings. The Lower Earnings Limit is removed.
- SSP will be payable from the first full day of sickness absence. The three-day waiting period is removed.
- The rate of SSP for all employees will be calculated at 80% of their average weekly earnings or the flat weekly rate, **whichever is lower**. The SSP rate from 6 April 2026 is £123.25 per week.

For sickness absence that started before 6 April 2026 and is ongoing after that date, the employee will be entitled to SSP if:

- their sickness started after 22 September 2025
- before 21 September but there had been periods where they had returned to work between 22 September and 5 April 2026.

According to government figures, the new SSP legislation brings up to a million employees within the sick payments for the first time with no requirement that the weekly minimum earnings reach a certain level before they qualify.

- Basic charity law to update the advice on procurement.
- Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity and publicity during the pre-election period (England) to reflect the Local Government Association's guidance for the 2026 local elections.
- Parish council meetings (England) to add definitions (e.g. the Easter break period) to the notice to be given for council meetings section.
- Planning for local councils to give more clarification on the parish and town council roles.
- Procurement, produced by our finance advisor, Parkinson Partnership LLP, provides clear explanations of the procurement framework under the Procurement Act 2023.
- Public Rights of Way to reflect the extended date of 1 January 2031 for recording footpaths and bridleways on the Definitive Map, which was brought in by the last government and extended the previous January 2026 deadline. The current government has expressed its intention to repeal the cut-off date altogether. This has yet to be enacted, and the 2031 deadline remains.

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. 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.**

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.

Current vacancies	Position	Closing date
<u>Brookenby Parish Council</u>	Clerk/RFO	No closing date
<u>Great Coates Village Council</u>	Clerk/RFO	20 th 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 Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer (RFO)	No closing date
<u>Bardney Group Parish Council</u>	Clerk/RFO	14 th March 2026
<u>Amber Hill Parish Council</u>	Clerk/RFO	10 th April 2026
<u>North Somercotes Parish Council</u>	Clerk/RFO	17 th May 2026
<u>Corby Glen Parish Council</u>	Clerk/RFO	8 th May 2026

