



24th April 2026

Rural Services Network (RSN) survey

How Are Funding Cuts Affecting Local Services?
Town and parish councils are invited to complete the RSN short survey on local service impacts.

[Access the survey.](#)

Age Friendly Town and Parish Guide

The Age Friendly Parish and Town Council Guide can be accessed in the [LALC Knowledgebase](#) (login required).

The guide highlights the vital leadership role parish and town councils play in creating age-friendly places and showcases how they are already making a difference.

Latest News

[NALC news](#) (NALC login may be required)
[SLCC news](#) (No SLCC login required)

NALC Good Councillor Guide to Website Accessibility

NALC have published a fully updated edition of The Good Councillor's Guide to Website Accessibility, offering parish and town councils practical, up-to-date support to meet their legal responsibilities and ensure their websites are accessible to all.

Developed in collaboration with website specialists Aubergine, the guide takes a clear, practical approach. It cuts through technical complexity to explain what website accessibility means in a parish and town council context, why it matters for residents and communities, and, crucially, what councils need to do to stay compliant. The focus throughout is on proportionate, achievable actions, making it accessible and relevant for councils of all sizes and levels of digital maturity.

The Guide can be downloaded from the [LALC website](#).

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.

Date Announced for the King's Speech

Source: SLCC

The House of Commons Library has confirmed that the State Opening of Parliament and the King's Speech will take place on 13 May 2026, following the local elections taking place on 7 May.

A newly published Commons Library briefing highlights legislation that may feature in the 2026–27 session, including bills carried over from the current session, measures announced in the July 2024 King's Speech that are still in progress, and potential new legislation. It also provides background on the State Opening ceremony and tracks the progress of key bills already before Parliament.

One of the highlighted potential items in the briefing is **local government standards**.

Further information can be found in the House of Commons Library Research Briefing [King's Speech 2026](#).

NALC Blog: Five simple cyber security steps everyone should follow

Author: Lisa Stockdale, NALC data and systems manager

Key recommendations:

- Use different passwords for different accounts.
- Do not base passwords and phone pin on personal information.
- Ensure automatic software updates are switched on.
- Enable multi-factor authentication (MFA) wherever it is available.
- Back up important files so they can be restored if your device is lost, damaged, or compromised.

[Read more](#) (NALC login required)

Age without limits day - 10th June 2026

Why do we tell older people they should 'slow down'? Will their batteries run out?

Ageism sounds absurd doesn't it? But it limits work, health and who's valued.

Age Without Limits Day is an annual day for us all to come together and take action to end ageism - as individuals, with friends and family, in our communities and in our workplaces.

[Find out more](#).

Crisis & Resilience Fund – Oil Support

Lincolnshire Community Foundation have recently launched the Crisis & Resilience Fund – Oil Support, part of a UK Government initiative delivered locally by Lincolnshire County Council. The fund offers eligible households a one-off £300 voucher to help with heating oil costs, with over 5,000 households across Lincolnshire expected to benefit.

Key information

1. £300 support available for heating oil costs
2. Household income must be below £36,000
3. Savings under £6,000
4. Must use heating oil as the main source of heating and hot water
5. Must be at risk of losing access to heating or hot water
6. Must be able to cover any remaining cost beyond the £300 voucher

How to apply

1. Apply online: www.lincolnshirecf.co.uk/crf
 2. Call 01529 572 575 (for support or to apply over the phone). Email crf@lincolnshirecf.co.uk
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Local Government Pay Claim 2026/27 – Unions Reject Offer

Source: SLCC

The NJC Trade Union Side have responded formally to the full and final pay offer made by the National Employers of 3.3%. Each of the unions' national committees met last week to decide their respective positions. It will come as no surprise that they have rejected the offer.

UNISON and Unite have now both rejected it without conducting a consultation of their wider memberships.

GMB has decided to adopt a neutral position in its consultation, leaving its members to decide for themselves whether to accept or reject the offer. Its consultation will close on Friday 22 May.

Recruitment

Did you know? 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.

Research Participation Request: Would Mandatory Training for Councillors Improve Performance in Local Councils?

Source: SLCC

SLCC has been asked to share the following research request on behalf of Julie Holden FSLCC, Town Clerk to Burgess Hill Town Council, who is currently undertaking the BA (Hons) Community Governance degree with De Montfort University.

Julie is undertaking research into training for councillors, exploring its potential role in supporting effective decision-making, working relationships, and overall council effectiveness. The research will consider whether training should be mandatory, and if so, what form and content would be most appropriate.

The survey will be live until 24 May and should take no more than ten minutes to complete. Julie would be really grateful if you could fill it in to help her gather evidence in this field which she is hoping to then share with SLCC, the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and the Local Government Association (LGA) to consider councillor training further.

If you would like to be included in a follow up research interview, please ensure that you include your email address in the final answer box on the form.

[Access the survey](#)

[Access the participant info sheet](#)

If you have any queries please contact Julie directly at: julie@burgesshill.gov.uk

NALC warns ignoring parish and town councils risks weakening national resilience

Parish and town councils should be placed at the heart of national emergency planning, as the UK faces an increasingly complex and interconnected risk landscape, we stated in our response to a new inquiry on preparedness and resilience.

The inquiry comes at a time when the UK is navigating a wide range of threats, from extreme weather and public health crises to cyber risks and geopolitical instability, all of which demand a more coordinated and inclusive approach to resilience.

We are calling on the government to update its 2022 UK Government Resilience Framework and the subsequent 2025 UK Government Resilience Action Plan to ensure parish and town councils are formally recognised and routinely consulted in the development of future emergency responses.

Crucially, it should include strengthening Local Resilience Forums by embedding parish and town council representation within them, ensuring that national strategies are grounded in local insight and delivery capacity.

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

NALC Blog: BT: Supporting Communities with the move to safer, more reliable digital landlines

Author: Sodhi Dhillon, engagement manager, BT

Over three million UK households have now moved to digital landlines, providing a safer, more reliable service ahead of the industry-wide analogue switchover in January 2027. As part of this upgrade, the UK's ageing and unreliable copper landline network is being retired, moving customers onto modern digital landlines built for the future.

With the UK's 40-year-old analogue landline network set to close, BT has revealed that most of its landline customers are already benefiting from safer, more reliable digital landlines.

Parish and town councils can help to communicate the changes clearly and locally to their communities and help ensure vulnerable residents to get the right equipment and advice. It is an opportunity to ensure digital inclusion across the community and signpost residents to official help via the BT website.

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

House of Lords votes in favour of NALC-backed amendment to devolution bill

Peers in the House of Lords have voted in favour of a major amendment to the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill, aimed at strengthening parish governance across England. Amendment 214 was agreed by 257 votes to 180, marking a significant moment in the bill's passage and a clear endorsement of the role of parish and town councils within England's evolving devolution framework.

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

NALC raises rural governance concerns with ministers

NALC attended the Rural Coalition meeting on 15 April 2025, which covered several issues affecting rural communities, such as the ongoing energy crisis, the Rural Taskforce report, changes to the planning system, the implications of the Local Government Finance Settlement for rural services, and local government reorganisation and devolution.

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

Completing the AGAR – Trust Funds

Parish and Town Councils should check the definition in the Practitioners Guide carefully before completing the question about Box 11 Trust Funds as the assertion has changed from the previous year.

AGAR – Section 2 Accounting statements 2025/26

For Local Councils Only	Yes	No	
11 Do the figures in the accounting statements above exclude any trust transactions?			<i>For guidance refer to the Practitioners' Guide sections 2.31 to 2.33.</i>

From the Practitioners Guide 2025

Line 11 - Disclosure note re trust funds (local councils only) – These Changes to Box 11 apply to the AGAR for 2025-26 and not 2024-25

- 2.31. Cell 11 requires a local council to answer 'Yes' or 'No' to whether the figures in Section 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return exclude any trust transactions or balances (see paragraph 1.46 above).
- 2.32. Where a body is NOT a sole managing trustee, it must answer Yes.
- 2.33. Information for authorities on a receipts and payments basis can be found in Section 5, paragraphs 5.106 – 5.116.

UK's waters can take your breath away

Source: LCC

Warmer weather's on the way. In Lincolnshire, that can mean stepping out into the nature on our doorsteps. But, even though the weather's warm, and the water looks fine, don't be fooled. In the UK our water temperatures are consistently low, even on those baking hot days of Summer. Water of 15°C (59°F) and lower can trigger cold water shock. This shock induces involuntary gasping, rapid breathing, panic and the sudden loss of swimming ability, even for strong swimmers, all of which drastically increases the risk of drowning.

As part of the National Fire Chiefs Council's 'Be Water Aware' week running Monday 27 April to Sunday 3 May, Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue is urging everyone to take caution around open water.

[Read more.](#)

Hedgehog Awareness Week, 3 – 9 May 2026: Local Councils Encouraged to Sign Up and Take the Pledge

Source: SLCC

Local councils and others are encouraged to take part in Hedgehog Awareness week 2026, which runs from 3 to 9 May 2026. The annual campaign, run by the British Hedgehog Preservation Society (BHPS), aims to highlight the problems hedgehogs face in the UK and take practical actions that can help them.

They are asking groups and individuals to take the pledge and pick just one activity, or do one every day, from the list below during #HedgehogWeek!

Pledge to:

- **Add more Hedgehog Highways!** 13cm x 13cm square gaps in boundary walls and fences ensure hedgehogs can gain access to vital habitat! Create more – talk to neighbours first! Once made, log them at: www.bighedgehogmap.org
- **Create, improve or protect a wild space.** Log piles, leaf heaps, and wild edges attract natural food and offer shelter for hedgehogs.
- **Always check for hedgehogs before strimming, mowing or hedge cutting.** Many hedgehogs are harmed or killed by garden machinery every year – simple checks before you start can save lives.
- **Go totally organic in the garden or allotment.** Pesticides and chemicals can harm wildlife and destroy the food chain. Embrace the wild instead!
- **Be net savvy.** Netting can become tangled in hedgehog spines. Make sure sports nets are put away and garden netting is raised 30cm off the ground so hedgehogs can safely pass underneath.
- **Provide water for wildlife all year round!** Make it part of your routine to check, clean, and refill water sources for hedgehogs in your garden or outside your workplace. Add a few pebbles so bees and butterflies can perch and safely drink too.
- **Become an NHMP volunteer spotter!** In partnership with People's Trust for Endangered Species, BHPS leads the National Hedgehog Monitoring Programme, surveying hedgehogs across the UK. Visit www.nhmp.co.uk to become a 'spotter'!

Please visit the [BHPS website](http://www.bhps.org.uk) to find out more information, including how to log your pledge.

BBC Casting Call - Community Heritage Items in Need of Restoration

A new BBC series The Repair Shop On The Road, will be travelling across the UK helping restore items that are at the heart of local communities and their shared history.

They are currently looking to connect with town, parish and community councils who may know of objects in their area that:

- Have real significance to the wider community (not just an individual or organisation)
- Are locally recognisable or well-loved (past or present)
- Have fallen into disrepair and need expert restoration
- Ideally have a story that brings people together or reflects a shared local identity

Examples might include:

- Public clocks, bells or town signage
- Items from former industries (mills, mines, shipyards, etc.)
- Objects tied to local traditions, events or gathering places
- Features from historic buildings, parks, or community spaces

Restorations would take place in situ within the community, allowing local people to be part of the process and see something meaningful brought back to life.

If you are interested, LALC can put you in contact with the Casting Producer.

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.** .

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 Clerk & RFO	No closing date
<u>Bardney Group Parish Council</u>	Clerk/RFO	14 th March 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
<u>Navenby Parish Council</u>	Clerk	27 th May 2026
<u>Navenby Parish Council</u>	RFO	27 th May 2026
<u>Benington Parish Council</u>	Clerk	15 th May 2026
<u>Ruskington Parish Council</u>	Parish Caretaker	24 th May 2026

