



8th May 2026

Latest News

[NALC news](#) (NALC login may be required)
[SLCC news](#) (No SLCC login required)
[LCC Town and Parish Newsletter](#)
[Clear Councils Newsletter](#)

New Online Hub Launched to Support Rural Flood Resilience

Source: Rural Services Network

[See details.](#)

NALC write to government asking for legislation to be prioritised

As a member of the Digital Democracy Partnership, alongside other local government partners, including the Local Government Associations, NALC have written to the government to highlight the need to take the opportunity of the next parliamentary session to prioritise legislation on remote attendance at council meetings and reform to the councillor standards regime.

Free Cyber Security workshops

Source: SLCC

So far this year, The Parish Council Domain Helper Service has delivered four free cybersecurity workshops, welcoming around 200 attendees. Following the success of these workshops, we are continuing to run these free online sessions to give more councils the opportunity to take part.

Our workshops help councils understand how cybersecurity relates to their day-to-day work and provides councils with some easy-to-implement actions they can take back to their council. This includes how to:

- secure important accounts using strong passwords and two-factor authentication
- protect council systems from malware
- safely back-up your data using cloud storage
- spot and deal with phishing scams

No prior knowledge of cybersecurity is needed. Our workshops are designed to be accessible and valuable for attendees with different levels of understanding.

[Register for one of the workshops.](#)

The English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill Receives Royal Assent

Source: SLCC

The English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill has received Royal Assent. The Act will introduce new measures to expand devolution and empower mayors and local people. A new Community Right to Buy will give local people the first right of refusal for valued community assets such as shops and community centres when they are put up for sale.

Beyond making changes for communities and high streets, the Act introduces 'Strategic Authorities' into law, to make it quicker to devolve powers out from Whitehall. Strategic Authorities with elected Mayors will receive more devolved powers over transport, planning, housing, and economic regeneration.

[Read more.](#)

New financial year, new challenges

As a new financial year kicks off for many businesses, I hope you're all getting to grips with the recent Employment Rights Act reforms, alongside the usual annual updates to pay, statutory rates and workplace policies.

It's been an exciting month for us at Wilkin Chapman Rollits, as we launched our new AI-driven HR platform, Adaptive HR. Backed by advice and oversight from our employment law team, it's designed to help employers deal with HR issues effectively, while having confidence that all decisions are legally sound. If you want to know more about how Adaptive HR can help your business, please get in touch.

In this month's newsletter, we look at religion, belief and dress codes; lessons from recent gross misconduct dismissals; how to approach suspect complaints; when collective redundancy consultation obligations arise; and the risks that come with alternatives to dismissal. We also look at neurodiversity and why employees don't need a formal diagnosis to expect reasonable adjustments.

Religion, belief and dress codes – striking the right legal balance

Inflexible dress codes risk unlawful discrimination; employers need justified, flexible policies under Equality Act 2010.

[Read the article.](#)

Handling suspect complaints – A practical guide for HR

Handle grievances objectively, investigate thoroughly, and discipline only where there is evidence of bad faith.

[Read the article.](#)

Transfers and training: alternatives to dismissal – but not without risk

Use transfers and training carefully: they must be fair, contractual, proportionate, and properly documented.

[Read the article.](#)

Lessons from recent gross misconduct dismissals

Even serious misconduct dismissals can be unfair if employers misuse evidence or fail to follow a proper process.

[Read the article.](#)

When do collective redundancy consultation obligations arise?

Assess collective consultation duties early; mistakes risk severe financial penalties under expanded redundancy rules.

[Read the article.](#)

What HR need to know about neurodivergence in the workplace

Focus on workplace impact, not diagnosis; consider reasonable adjustments to meet Equality Act duties.

[Read the article.](#)

Free ACAS eLearning

ACAS offer a number of FREE eLearning opportunities. Topics cover key employment areas, rights and issues that all workplaces need to get right. Ideal for people new to managing and anyone needing an introduction to: Acas Codes of Practice; Bullying and harassment; Contracts of employment and written statements; Discipline and grievance; Equality, diversity and inclusion; Introduction to absence management; Introduction to performance management; Managing change at work; Managing conflict; Managing people; Pregnancy and maternity at work; Recruitment, induction and probation: the essentials; Redundancy: making fair and lawful decisions in practice.

Further details available on the [ACAS website.](#)

Lincolnshire Public Sector Challenge

Source: NKDC

Join us for The Lincolnshire Public Sector Challenge which will take place on Saturday June 13 in North Kesteven and is being promoted to councils and public sector organisations in Lincolnshire and beyond.

Spanning a distance of 26.5 or 14 miles we will follow the Ridges and Furrows walk from North Hykeham to Sleaford.

If you want to do the 26.5 mile walk you will start at One NK Leisure Centre between 7-7.30am (parking available).

If you want to do the 14 mile walk you will start at Welbourn, registering at Welbourn Village Hall between 11am -1pm (parking available).

There will be a bus available back from the finish to the car parking points in Welbourn and One NK at the end of the walk at 5.30pm or 7pm or you can make your own transport arrangements. (Bus fare will be £5 per person and must be booked with your ticket.) Under 18's are welcome but must be accompanied by an adult.

The route is available on the [Ridges and Furrows Trail website](#).

There will be refreshment and comfort breaks along the route and at the end point in Sleaford.

The cost of participating in the walk is £20 for adult entries or £10 for under 18s. A contribution of £5 per entry will be made to British Heart Foundation and Cancer Research.

You can also set up your own giving page via [Give Wheel](#) or fundraise as an organisation for your own favourite charity.

Join us to enjoy the beautiful outside on one of Lincolnshire's favourite heritage trails. It is also part of the Viking Way which celebrates its 50th birthday in 2026.

Register via the Public Sector Challenge Lincolnshire GiveWheel webpage before registration closes on 31 May, 2026.

We are also looking for Volunteers to support the event. Sign up via the registration page but click the Volunteer button.

Foster Care Fortnight starts 11 May - LCC needs your help

Foster Care Fortnight is 11 - 24 May. Lincolnshire Fostering Service is urgently recruiting foster carers for local children. Over this national fortnight of celebrating and recruiting foster carers, we will be posting on our Facebook and Instagram encouraging anyone who may be interested in fostering to attend one of our free Online Information Events.

How you can help:

Important Changes to the Biodiversity Net Gain System

Source: SLCC

The government has announced several changes to rules governing the Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) system in England. This followed a consultation on proposed changes to the regime that took place in 2025.

Two changes of particular interest to the sector are:

- confirmation that the threshold size for the vast majority of development proposals to be exempt from BNG is to be increased from 0.1 to 0.2 hectares
- a new exemption for development enhancing parks, playing fields, and public gardens

One of the key points SLCC made in its response last year to the consultation was that the existing BNG requirements (in particular financial) can be burdensome for parish councils or other community led projects, often delaying or preventing their delivering, in particular improvement to parks and open spaces.

It is anticipated that the changes will come into force over the summer.

The government also announced that there will be a further delay in the introduction of BNG for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs).

SLCC would again like to thank everyone, including case studies, who contributed to SLCC's response to the consultation.

More information about the proposals can be found [here](#).

Read more about BNG [here](#).

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- Share our Facebook and Instagram posts - [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)
 - Direct anyone you may know to attend one of our free [online information events](#)
 - Share any posters in your local area or on your own social media - email fostering.marketing@lincolnshire.gov.uk for your copy

Worknest FREE Webinar: From Challenge to Action: 10 HR issues councils must address now

Councils are under increasing pressure.

With ongoing employment law changes and a growing list of HR responsibilities, it's becoming harder to stay compliant while managing day-to-day challenges and protecting your council, your people, and the public. This practical, solutions-focused webinar from WorkNest on **19 May** at 2.00pm will help you make sense of the key challenges – and what you should be thinking about to address them.

[Register here.](#)

LALC training - Places available

Check out the LALC website for details of training places available.

We're keen to encourage more people on the following:

- First Aid at Work - 2 June (and 6 October)
- Getting Started with AI in your council - 20 May
- AI for community engagement - 10 June
- Cemetery operations and regulatory compliance - 30 June & 1 July
- AI for council operations - 1 July

Training may have to be cancelled if we don't meet the minimum numbers to cover external trainers.

NALC blog: Exploring the impact of AI on parish and town councils

Author: Lisa Stockdale, data and systems manager at NALC

Artificial intelligence (AI) is no longer something on the horizon. It's already beginning to shape how parish and town councils operate. But what might that look like in five, ten, or even fifteen years?

That was the question posed by the East Riding and Northern Lincolnshire Local Councils Association (ERNLLCA), which commissioned a collection of short, thought-provoking articles from across the sector. They invited contributors to reflect on a simple but powerful prompt: what impact will AI have on parish and town councils over the next decade?

The result is a rich and varied set of perspectives, grounded in real experience, but looking firmly to the future. While the tone and emphasis may differ, a clear and reassuring message runs throughout. AI isn't here to replace parish and town councils. It's here to help them thrive.

Across all the contributions, the conclusion is strikingly consistent and optimistic. AI is not a threat to parish and town councils. It's a tool that, used well, can strengthen them.

If AI can take care of the repetitive, the time-consuming and the complex, it creates space for something invaluable: better conversations, stronger relationships, and more meaningful local leadership. And that's something worth getting excited about.

[Read the blog.](#)

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
<u>Farnsfield Parish Council (Notts)</u>	Clerk/RFO	5 th May 2026
<u>Ashby de la Launde and Bloxholm with Temple Bruer and Temple High Grange Parish Council</u>	Clerk	1 st July 2026

