LALC eNews

6th November 2026

Latest News

NALC news (NALC login may be required)
SLCC news (No SLCC login required)
LCC Town and Parish Council Update
Gallagher Community Matters Newsletter
Clear Councils October Updates

Decision on LGR in Lincolnshire withdrawn

The Minister for Local Government, Devolution and Regional Growth, has provided an update to the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) programme, following the pause and review announced in September.

The decision for Lincolnshire - which would have seen the creation of a new Lincoln unitary council and a new Lincolnshire unitary council - has now been withdrawn by government.

The government now intends to review the existing proposals and make a new decision by early next year. They are not asking for us to propose any new models for our area.

Read more on LCC website.

Details now confirmed for Memorial Management & Inspections training

This training, run by ICCM, has now been confirmed for 14th July 2027 and will be held at Dunholme Old School, with the practical element being held in the churchyard at St Chad's, Dunholme.

Book via the portal (LALC login required).

Digital AGAR sessions - additional spaces

Due to high demand, **additional spaces** have been released for the Digital AGAR sessions on 23 February and 4 March.

Please book via the portal in the usual way (login required).

Environment Agency - Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire Asset Performance Update

What is Asset Performance?

Asset Performance is about checking and looking after assets like flood walls, riverbanks, and barriers that help prevent flooding. Our teams regularly inspect assets and carry out maintenance activities to make sure they are working properly and safely.

We use our assets to manage water as it flows through rivers towards to the sea. We may slow or speed up water flow to reduce flooding. Or we may hold and regulate water flow for navigation and recreational purposes, or for water abstraction and biodiversity needs.

We use our permissive powers to carry out maintenance, improvement, or construction work on watercourses known as 'main rivers' to manage flood risk and protect the environment. And we work with landowners who are usually responsible for maintaining them, ensuring their actions do not increase flood risk.

View the latest update here.

Am I at flood risk?

Around 6.3 million properties in England are in flood-risk areas, and the threat is growing. Last winter, we issued thousands of flood alerts and warnings.

Yet only 45% of people say they understand how to protect their homes. It's vital that everyone knows their flood risk and how to prepare.

We've launched our new website called Flood Action Online that acts as a 'one stop shop' providing you with the information you need to better understand your flood risk and prepare for flooding in one place.

View the latest Aardman flooding video on YouTube - Missey and Stanley's Tale.

Digital Telephone Switchover: Big Switch Off in January 2027

Source: SLCC

The UK's digital telephone switchover is progressing, with traditional landlines and other devices that rely on the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) moving to digital services.

The Big Switch Off is scheduled for 31 January 2027, which means councils should be considering whether any of their telephone lines or other equipment that rely on the PSTN need to be upgraded.

Openreach has the latest information about the switchover, including updates and videos that can be used to brief councillors, staff and other stakeholders.

Find out more about the Big Switch Off on the Openreach website.

The Local Government Association (LGA) is also holding a series of fortnightly drop-in sessions in the run-up to the January 2027 deadline. These sessions provide an opportunity to raise concerns or challenges relating to the digital switchover. There is no set agenda, and councils can drop in with questions or issues they would like to discuss.

Registration is required for each session. Click on the relevant date below for more information. The sessions are being held on:

4 November, 11:00 – 12:00
18 November, 11:00 – 12:00
2 December, 11:00 – 12:00
15 December, 11:00 – 12:00
6 January, 11:00 – 12:00
20 January, 11:00 – 12:00

NALC Parliamentary and political engagement

We are stepping up our efforts to champion the democratic role of parish and town councils as the Representation of the People Bill enters its next parliamentary stage.

Ahead of the next stage, we have briefed peers with local government backgrounds, urging them to highlight the vital contribution parish and town councils make to local democracy.

You can read our briefing here.

Consultation: Future of Access to HM Land Registry Information

Source: SLCC

HM Land Registry (HMLR) has published a consultation on behalf of and jointly with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) to seek views on a package of proposals to increase the public value of HMLR data and improve access to land ownership information, while ensuring appropriate safeguards are in place. The proposals cover new ownership datasets, changes to access and charging arrangements, public interest access, accelerating land registration, and potential powers to restrict access to information where there is evidence of a significant risk of harm.

This consultation is potentially quite significant because it could make land ownership information much easier and cheaper to obtain when carrying out community projects, preparing neighbourhood plans, protecting community assets, pursuing regeneration opportunities, or simply understanding who owns land in a parish.

Alongside this consultation, HMLR is also consulting on proposals relating to simplifying the current fee model contained within The Land Registration Fee Order 2024.

Find out more and respond to the Future of access to HM Land Registry information here.

Find out more and respond to the Restructuring HM Land Registry fees consultation here.

Both consultations close at 11.59pm on 22 December 2026.

First Aid At Work Training - Expressions of Interest

The First Aid At Work training rearranged for 9 March is now full. Please let us know at enquiries@lalc.co.uk if you wish to go on a reserve list in the event of any places being cancelled.

If there is sufficient demand, and dependent on numbers, we may look to add a further session later next year.

Law Lines Employment - October 2026 Update

New rights, new responsibilities

This month sees further changes under the Employment Rights Act 2025. Among the reforms coming into force from 30 October are stronger duties on employers to prevent sexual harassment and harassment by third parties, which we have discussed in previous bulletins, so hopefully you are well prepared.

In this edition, we take a closer look at the new trade union access rules and the requirement for employers to tell workers about their right to join a trade union, which has now been delayed until January. We also cover the extension of Employment Tribunal time limits, changes to right-to-work checks and what employers need to know about the new bereavement leave rules coming next year.

Trade union access: what changes on 30 October

New trade union access rights are approaching. Here's what employers need to know.

Read the article.

Managers face personal liability for reasonable adjustment failures

Failure to consider reasonable adjustments could leave managers liable for discrimination claims.

Read the article.

Employment Tribunal claims: six months is the new three

Longer Employment Tribunal deadlines mean employers should act early to preserve evidence and manage potential claims.

Read the article.

Trade union statement duty delayed until January 2027

Employers have until January to prepare for a separate new trade union requirement.

Read the article.

Bereavement leave: is your policy ready for April 2027

New bereavement leave rights arrive in 2027. Is your current policy ready for change?

Read the article.

Right to work checks: who do you need to check now?

Right to work rules have widened, requiring businesses to reassess who needs checks before starting work.

Read the article.

And finally, how much can a bottle of water cost? For one Lidl employee, rather more than 17p.

In Oxborough v Lidl, Mr Oxborough had worked at Lidl for more than 10 years when a customer arrived at his till with a bottle of water taken from a multipack. It had no barcode, so the customer swapped it for a bottle that could actually be scanned, leaving the original behind.

Later in his shift, Mr Oxborough drank from the abandoned bottle and used some of it to top up his own drink. Why? He said he was dehydrated. And why not drink what was already in his own bottle? He had made his squash too strong. Mr Oxborough believed the water could simply be written off. Unfortunately, Lidl had a different view. The correct procedure was for the bottle to be written off by a manager and donated to charity. Mr Oxborough neither paid for it nor asked for it to be written off.

CCTV was checked. An investigation followed. Mr Oxborough was dismissed for gross misconduct. All over 17p worth of water. Perhaps surprisingly, the employment tribunal found the dismissal fair.

The point was not really the 17p. Lidl had a zero-tolerance approach to theft, Mr Oxborough had received recent training, the relevant procedures were well known, and the company had investigated before deciding what to do. The tribunal stressed that its job was not to decide whether it would have dismissed him, but whether dismissal was within the range of reasonable responses open to Lidl.

So, the employment law lesson for the month? Sometimes 17p really can cost you your job.

Household Waste Recycling Centre Booking System

A new booking system is being introduced at **Lincolnshire's Household Waste Recycling Centres** from **7 December 2026**.

Residents will be able to make their bookings from 30 November.

The change is being introduced to help manage visits more effectively. Lincolnshire's recycling centres are getting busier and, at peak times, large numbers of vehicles can arrive together, causing queues and congestion both within the sites and on surrounding roads.

Booking will help spread visits more evenly throughout the day, making journeys more predictable and helping site teams manage the centres safely and effectively.

There will be enough booking capacity to accommodate the number of residents currently using the recycling centres – the difference is that visits will be spread across the day. A proportion of slots will also be available to book on the same day.

From 7 December, residents should make sure they have a booking before setting off for their local recycling centre.

Find out more, including how the booking system will work, at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/HWRCbooking

Autumn Budget misses opportunity to support parish and town councils, says NALC

We have called on the government to ensure parish and town councils are recognised in its plans for devolution and local growth, following the Chancellor's Autumn Budget.

The Budget sets out plans to give mayors and strategic authorities greater financial powers, including a share of income tax from 2028, increased business rates retention from 2027 and the power for strategic authorities to introduce an Overnight Visitor Levy. The government also intends for local and regional government to retain all business rates income before the end of the decade.

While these measures could give areas greater control over the resources they raise, we believe it is important that England's 10,000 parish and town councils are included in decisions about how funding is allocated and how local communities benefit from investment.

Read more. (NALC login may be required)

HMRC Direct Debit Requirement Confirmed for VAT and PAYE

Source: SLCC

Parish and town councils should begin planning now for a significant change to how VAT and PAYE liabilities are managed.

Following a consultation, HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) has confirmed that, **from April 2029**, organisations that submit VAT and PAYE returns will generally be required to have a Direct Debit instruction in place with HMRC.

The government has stepped back from its original proposal to make Direct Debit the only payment method. Instead, councils and other employers will continue to be able to pay VAT and PAYE using their preferred method before the due date. However, if any liability remains unpaid when the payment deadline passes, HMRC will automatically collect the outstanding amount through Direct Debit.

This means that councils will need to ensure suitable banking arrangements are in place, even if they intend to continue making payments manually through their normal financial controls and authorisation processes. HMRC says the change is intended to reduce payment errors, missed deadlines and avoidable tax debts.

Action for clerks and responsible financial officers
Review your council's banking arrangements and financial regulations over the coming years to ensure that a Direct Debit mandate can be established with HMRC ahead of the April 2029 implementation date. Councils that currently do not use Direct Debit for VAT or PAYE payments may need to make changes to internal processes and banking authorities well in advance of the deadline.

Read the SLCC article here.

Read the HMRC announcement here.

Breakthrough Communications article - Inducting New Councillors: The 4 Cs (Confident, Competent, Collaborative and Compliant)

Joining a parish, town or community council can be exciting, but there can also be a lot to take in.

A good induction can make a real difference.

Read the article here.

New Action to Tackle Harassment at Work

Source: SLCC

From 30 October, people have got stronger protections from sexual harassment at work.

Employers must now take all reasonable steps to prevent sexual harassment of their staff before it occurs. This could include practical measures like having a clear reporting policy or training staff on handling difficult situations.

Protections have also been strengthened for workers facing all forms of harassment from third parties. Going beyond protections for harassment between colleagues, this will now apply to clients and customers too.

The Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) has also updated information on sexual harassment on its website.

Autumn 2026 Budget and Implications for Planning

Source: SLCC

Last week's budget included a few measures that will affect the planning system in England and may be of interest to the sector. These are:

- A new data covenant for new strategic data centres will require developers of such schemes to agree a 'Local Benefit Plan' that commits to substantial investment, developed with the local community and linked to the development's size. This can be spent on local priorities, such as transport, parks, and town centres. It adds that communities should have a meaningful say in how these benefits are designed and allocated.
- Residential development on brownfield sites up to 1.5 hectares in England will be exempt from Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) requirements.
- BNG will become mandatory for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) from November 2026.

A full copy of the budget can be found here.

Local Audit Reform

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has published guidance on its programme to reform the local audit system in England, setting out plans to create a simpler and more resilient system and rebuild assurance following the audit backlog.

Welcome to Your Vote Week

Source: SLCC

Welcome to Your Vote Week is returning for 2027, taking place 8 – 14 March.

Welcome to Your Vote Week is the Electoral Commission's annual awareness raising week for democratic education. It's a chance for schools, youth groups, and anyone who works with young people to celebrate democracy and learn about democracy, voting, and elections.

There are lots of ways to get involved in the week – explore how organisations got involved in Welcome to Your Vote Week in 2026.

Information and resources to help you take part in the week will be available in January 2027. Sign up to Welcome to Your Vote Week to be among the first to receive them.



Consultation: Draft National Policy Statement (NPS) on Data Centres

The government in England has released its draft national policy statement (NPS) on data centres for consultation, which will apply to strategic data centre projects dealt with under the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project regime.

The proposals include a 'presumption of consent' for data centre schemes being granted, meaning that applications are 'unlikely' to be refused provided that they meet relevant requirements. Also, communities that host such development should directly benefit from it. This includes that 'strategic data centres should agree a Local Benefit Plan that commits to substantial investment, developed with the local community and linked to the development's size. This can be spent on local priorities, like transport, parks and town centres'.

Find out more about the consultation here. The consultation closes on 8 January 2027.

NB: Data centres are the physical facilities that store, process, and run large amounts of data and software which power the internet.

NALC encourages parish and town councils to share barriers to nature recovery

We are encouraging parish and town councils to respond to a call for evidence from the Office for Environmental Protection (OEP), seeking examples of regulatory and practical barriers that are delaying efforts to protect and improve nature.

Launched on 19 October 2026, the call for evidence aims to identify obstacles preventing landowners and occupiers in England from taking action to support nature recovery, and explore how these barriers could be addressed.

Parish and town councils can play an important role in protecting and enhancing their local environment. From managing green spaces and supporting wildlife to improving habitats and working with local partners, councils have valuable experience of the challenges that can affect environmental projects.

The OEP is seeking real or perceived barriers affecting work across land, freshwater and coastal environments. It will consider their impact on conservation efforts, including progress towards environmental targets for wildlife-rich habitats and the commitment to protect 30% of land and sea for nature by 2030.

We encourage parish and town councils with relevant experience to contribute examples of what has prevented or delayed action, helping build an evidence base to identify practical solutions and accelerate nature recovery.

Read the OEP's call for evidence, which includes a briefing document and response template.

Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Scoping Consultation – Extension of Deadline for Consultation Responses

The deadline for responses to the Local Plan Scoping Consultation, has been extended to 23:59 on Thursday **17 December 2026**. Please ensure that your response is submitted by this date, as late submissions may not be accepted.

You can view the consultation documents online on the Central Lincolnshire website.

If you have any questions, please contact the Central Lincolnshire Local Plans Team at talkplanning@central-lincs.org.uk.

Please check police contact numbers in your parish publications

Source: LCC

We've been asked to help raise awareness of the contact numbers currently publicised for the police.

The numbers that should be used are:

- 101 for non-emergencies
- 999 for emergencies

There are concerns that some older police telephone numbers, such as 01522 532222, are being spoofed. This means criminals can make it appear as though they are calling from a genuine police number, which can be used as part of police officer impersonation fraud.

If you include police contact details in your parish newsletter, website or other publications, we would be grateful if you could check these and remove any old telephone numbers, using only 101 and 999 instead.

Thank you for your help in sharing the correct information and helping to keep residents informed.

Help Healthwatch Lincolnshire understand what matters to your community

Healthwatch Lincs are working with LCC to understand what matters to communities across Lincolnshire and what helps make somewhere a happy and healthy place to live. They would like to hear from people about their neighbourhoods, including the people, services and support that make a difference to their communities.

Take part in the survey (closes on 30 November)

Please help Healthwatch Lincs reach as many people as possible by sharing the survey with residents and through your local networks, newsletters, websites or social media channels where appropriate.

Responses will be handled securely and reported anonymously unless participants give specific permission for their information to be used in another way.

Anyone who needs support completing the survey or would like it in an alternative format can contact enquiries@hwlincs.co.uk.

LCC - Help shape a new Youth Strategy for Lincolnshire

We need your feedback to make sure our young people have access to the right activities and services to support their wellbeing and development.

We run a range of positive activities primarily designed for young people aged 11 up to 19, as well as offering targeted support to those facing particular challenges or difficulties. In addition, we support families through community-based services and events. Our team also works with community partners, youth centres and other youth-focused projects, providing guidance, advice and practical support to help more young people get involved.

We're currently developing a new Youth Strategy to guide this work. We want to hear what young people, families, organisations and communities think about youth services in Lincolnshire, including what works well, what could be improved and what should be prioritised in the future.

You can share your views by completing an online survey here.

Survey closes 4 January 2027.

Read the full LCC article.

Have your say on the future of policing in Lincolnshire

Take 10 minutes to complete the Police and Crime Commissioner's annual Crime and Policing Survey and help shape decisions on policing, crime prevention, victim support and community safety in your area.

Your views really do make a difference. Feedback from previous surveys has helped influence investment in neighbourhood policing, dedicated roads policing teams, rural crime enforcement, community speed watch schemes, control room resources and campaigns to tackle fraud and scams.

This year's survey gives you the opportunity to have your say on crime, policing and community safety where you live, how much you are prepared to contribute through your council tax to support policing, and emerging issues such as e-bikes, e-scooters and smart glasses.

This is your chance to ensure your voice is heard and the issues that matter most to your community help shape future decisions.

LCC 2028 Admissions Policy Consultation

The follow schools will be consulting on their 2028/29 Admission Policy:

North Hykeham Fosse Way Academy
Consultation period: 02/11/2026 to 14/12/2026
The consultation can be found here.

Pointon St Gilbert of Sempringham Church of England Primary School
Consultation period: 07/11/2026 to 21/12/2026
The consultation can be found here.

North Kesteven Academy
Consultation period: 04/11/2026 to 16/12/2026
The consultation can be found here.

This notification is in accordance with section 1.47 & 1.48 - School Admissions Code (2021)

Community Governance Review Outcome

NKDC completed a Community Governance Review and changed parish council boundaries between Canwick and Bracebridge Heath and this will affect electors for the parish council elections in May 2027 and will be brought to the attention of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) and Boundary Commission England (BCE) to consider the changes to the boundaries for District, County Council, Greater Lincolnshire Mayoralty and Parliamentary elections.

There is other information available here.

SAAA Announces New Digital AGAR Incentive Scheme

This incentive scheme is designed to encourage smaller authorities to move confidently to digital submission and benefit from the new Digital AGAR portal.

Authorities that submit their AGAR through the Digital AGAR portal by 30 June 2027 and pay their audit scale fee for the year will automatically receive the incentive payment equal to their fixed audit scale fee. Authorities that submit digitally and would like to receive an incentive payment will be asked to provide their bank details to SAAA. The incentive payment will be sent to the authority's bank account. Payments will be made by 31 March 2028 at the latest.

Read more on SAAA website.

SUPPORTING PARISH COUNCILS ACROSS LINCOLNSHIRE

TQ SERVICES

At TQ Services, we're proud to work alongside parish councils to keep our local communities clean, safe, and thriving. From maintaining village greens and recreation areas to caring for memorial gardens, playgrounds, and pathways — we handle every detail with care, consistency, and pride.



Grounds Maintenance You Can Rely On

Our experienced team provides professional grounds maintenance tailored to the needs of each parish.

We cover everything from regular grass cutting and hedge trimming to seasonal planting, litter clearance, and general upkeep. We understand that every parish is unique, and we take the time to deliver work that reflects your community's standards and expectations.

Rooted in the Community

We're not a distant contractor — we live and work here too. Our work extends beyond public spaces, with a strong presence in local schools and grassroots football.

Through our Platinum Partnership with Lincoln City FC, we proudly support the next generation, helping young people stay active, connected, and proud of where they come from.

Let's Keep Lincolnshire Looking Its Best

If your parish council is looking for a dependable, community-minded team to manage its outdoor spaces, we'd love to help.

EMAIL US FOR MORE INFORMATION

info@tq-services.co.uk

SCAN TO VISIT

WWW.TQ-SERVICES.CO.UK

PROUDLY SERVING LINCOLNSHIRE'S PARISHES

WWW.TQ-SERVICES.CO.UK - 01777 594801

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 (including mandatory 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. Please also notify us of your new Clerk/Officer's details so that we can update our records and set them up with access to our portal.

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.**

Recruitment Manual

NALC's Recruitment Manual can be found in the LALC portal (login required). In the Knowledgebase, select Employment, and search for Recruitment. The Manual covers Staffing Committee Terms of Reference, Role of the Clerk, Job Description and Person Specification, Advertising, Application Forms, Recruitment Information Pack, Short-listing Guidance, Selection Interviewing Guidance, Selection Assessment Guidance, Appointment Process, Induction, and Probation.

Current vacancies	Position	Closing date
South Somercotes Parish Council	Clerk/RFO	5th October 2026
Folkingham Parish Council	Clerk/RFO	19th October 2026
Bourne Town Council	Deputy Town Clerk	30th October 2026
South Hykeham Parish Council	Assistant Clerk	8th November 2026
Washingborough Parish Council	Responsible Financial Officer (RFO)/Assistant Clerk	No closing date
North Scarle Parish Council	Clerk/RFO	13th November 2026