



Newsletter
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Members Code of Conduct

We have had a few enquiries regarding the recently published Local Government Association's Model Members Code of Conduct.

The LGA, following consultation, has produced a Model which aims to both (i) deliver consistency in the

implementation of the Code throughout the three tiers of Local Government and (ii) enables members to have a better understanding of the requirements of the Code of Conduct introduced under the Localism Act 2011 and subsequent Regulations.

Currently NALC is pressing the Government to respond to recommendations from the Committee on Standards in public Life published in January 2019 which made 26 recommendations to change the current standards regime governing conduct in local government, including the introduction of sanctions. We have not published the LGA Code on our website. However, aware that some Boroughs/Districts are adopting the LGA Code members may wish to discuss this further with their Monitoring Officer.

Remote Meetings

We were very disappointed on your behalf with the High Court Decision to dismiss the Application to allow remote meetings to continue post 7th May. We do not underestimate the difficulty that this places on you all. However, the simple fact is that any Meetings held remotely post 6th May will be unlawful. We will keep you updated.

Welcome Back Fund

The Government has established a £56m Welcome Back Fund. The Government is strongly encouraging Principal Authorities to pass on the funding to Town and Parish Councils and to work with them to boost shopping areas, high streets, provide/ improve green spaces, outdoor seating areas, markets and pop up food stalls. NALC has asked to be informed if you are encountering difficulties in accessing these funds (www.nalc.gov.uk/news/entry/1696-principal-councils-told-to-pass-welcome-back-funding-on-to-local-councils).

Borrowing Approval Application Process

We mentioned in the last bulletin that there was a significant backlog in processing applications. Officers from the County Associations have met with MHCLG (Parish Borrowing Team) and have received assurances that the backlog will be cleared by the end of June and current applications will take 3-4 months to turn around.

The whole process is to be modernised with the aim of streamlining it and making it easier for Councils and County Officers to manage.

Key Changes to AGAR

To remind councils <£25k that Internal Auditors must now monitor Transparency Code compliance to achieve an appropriate level of scrutiny.

Furlough Scheme

This must be shown as income and not reduction in staff costs.

NALC Star Council Awards 2021

These are very important as it is the only awards in England that recognise parish and town councils contributions to communities. The focus this year will be on projects that have positively impacted on communities in the context of the pandemic. The Awards ceremony will be an online event in September. Awards will be made to councils, councillors, young councillors and clerks – even county associations! We know there are so many of you in Surrey Parishes who deserve such recognition so do not hold back - get those submissions in!! Details can be found on the [NALC website](#)

NALC DIS

DIS is a fortnightly bulletin with all the latest news and information, which is relevant to your sector. With a round-up of government statements and publications, up-to-date legal information, ministerial statements, press releases and consultations from across the sector, along with regular events and vacancy listings.

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