

Mini *eUpdate* from Northants CALC

To Member Councils in Northamptonshire:

[Please read and circulate to all councillors]

The Return of Remote Meetings

Please remember to respond to the government's consultation on the detail and practical implications of allowing **remote and hybrid attendance at local authority meetings**. From our sector, the government wants to hear from parish and town councils, individual councillors, CALCs and NALC, and even members of the public. It is very important that the provisions are wide-ranging and that they allow for fully remote meetings. Please do engage with this consultation... the questions are straightforward, and it takes less than 15 minutes to complete. Go to <https://consult.communities.gov.uk/local-government-standards-and-conduct/remote-attendance-and-proxy-voting/> to submit your response. The deadline is **19 December 2024**. Thank you!

Transfer to Dot Gov

The Friday mini *eUpdate* sent on 1 November 2024 included a **last call for parish councils** in Northamptonshire to register their interest with the Cabinet Office to transfer to the .gov.uk domain suffix, so it's only right that Northants CALC does the same! In fact, Northants CALC used .gov.uk from 2009 to 2015 when the government changed the rules and made CALCs no longer eligible. Now, the rules have changed again, and so we are eligible again. It's good to be back! Based on past experience, we are keeping northantscalc.com for several years to give everyone a chance to update their records, so if you email dmoody@northantscalc.com I will still receive it, and if you visit www.northantscalc.com you will be automatically forwarded to www.northantscalc.gov.uk. Please do **update your records** though... all our email addresses are the same, except its now .gov.uk instead of .com.

Understanding Recent Changes to Employment Law: Sexual Harassment 22 January 2025 10:00-11:30

October 2024 saw the introduction of **new statutory obligations for councils to prevent sexual harassment of their employees**, not just from within the council but also from members of the public. This includes the need to update policies and procedures, consult with staff, conduct essential training for staff and councillors, and take 'reasonable steps' to protect the council from claims of harassment at an Employment Tribunal. To enable councils to prepare and work within these new entitlements, we are conducting a session to provide members with the information they need to know. Book here <https://tinyurl.com/3uz4y4k8> (log in required). Alternatively, if your council would like an evening session (18:00-19:30) please get in touch with mreilly@northantscalc.gov.uk.

National Insurance Update

I attended a meeting of all CALCs and the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) on Wednesday to consider the impact of the **changes next year to**

National Insurance. As previously reported, many parish and town councils in Northamptonshire and across the country will be hit hard by the changes. If you've been following the news this week, you'll know that charities, GP surgeries, and dentists are also up in arms about the changes. On Wednesday, I wrote to all the county's MPs to highlight the issue, and NALC has met with officials at the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and will continue to do so, but it's not looking hopeful. Therefore, **parish and town councils are advised to include NI liability in their 2025/26 budget calculations.** See last week's Friday mini *eUpdate* for details.

Local Council Vacancies

Crick is a large village just off the M1 between Daventry and Rugby. **Crick Parish Council** has a vacancy for an Assistant Clerk working 8 – 12 hours per week. The responsibilities include managing burials. The council has 11 councillors and set a precept for 2024/25 of £138,260. There are 1,730 electors. The closing date for applications is **5pm on Friday 6 December 2024.**

Full details for all open vacancies can be found at <https://www.northantscalc.gov.uk/council-vacancies>.

I hope you have a good weekend.

Best regards,

Danny.

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