



Cheshire Association of Local Councils – NEWS Roundup Week Ending 20.09.19

ChALC Focus **Weekly Bulletin**

Our ChALC bulletin can now also be found on the [ChALC Website](#)

Additional ChALC Training date for Clerks & Councillors

Due to the popular demand of our 'Introduction to Local Councils for Clerks & Councillors' training session, we have added a further date to calendar.

The training will take place on the afternoon of 26th November (1.30pm – 4.30pm) in Holmes Chapel.

If you or any of your members would like to attend please contact Hazel Merrill (hazelmerrill@chalc.org.uk) to reserve a place.

ChALC Annual Meeting

The date is fast approaching don't miss out. If you, or any of your members would like to attend but have not yet reserved a place please contact Hazel Merrill hazelmerrill@chalc.org.uk to do so, or alternatively complete and return the attached booking form.

Invoices

Could we please ask clerks when processing payments to ChALC, to be sure to quote the invoice number as the reference. Please note the bank details are clearly marked on the bottom of the invoice as we only use the one account.

Cheshire East Focus

Free Wellness Event Crewe

Health and Happiness 10th October 10.00am – 1.30pm

Join us for a free event starting with a free sausage or bacon bap treat. Aims: to connect residents to local support services, activities, professional advice, health screenings, and self-care ideas. Plus offering a space for socialising and fun, together supporting your health and happiness.

New course for job seekers starting on 1 October in Nantwich

Free, 'Steps towards employment'

8 weekly session preparing you for employment including job searches, CV writing and interviews.

Flyer attached

Funding opportunities

Masonic Charitable Foundation

Early Years Opportunities Grants Programme - deadline 27th September 2019 Grants for charities in England and Wales that support disadvantaged and vulnerable children and young people (up the age of 25 years) to overcome the barriers they face in order to achieve the best possible start in life. <https://mcf.org.uk/charity-grants>

Masonic Charitable Foundation

Later Life Inclusion Grants Programme - deadline 27th September 2019

Grants for local and national charities in England and Wales that are working to reduce loneliness and isolation in later life. <https://mcf.org.uk/charity-grants>

National Churches Trust

Cornerstone Grants Programme 2019-2023 – deadline 4th November 2019

Grants to support the conservation and sustainable use of church buildings in the UK, focusing on larger and more complex projects with priority given to urgent structural repairs or the introduction of kitchens and accessible toilets. Go to <https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/our-grants>

Triangle Trust 1949 Fund

Development Grants – deadline 22 Oct 2019

Core funding for charities, not-for-profit social enterprises and community interest companies in the UK that are working to support unpaid carers or the rehabilitation of offenders or ex-offenders to help them make a step-change in their development and therefore build increased sustainability for the future. Go to <https://www.triangletrust.org.uk/what-we-fund>

Save The Date Town & Parish Conference

Date: Wednesday 20th November
Time: 4.00pm – 7.00pm
Venue: Canalside Conference Centre, Middlewich

More details to follow.

Cheshire West and Chester Focus

Member briefing 1341 - Manchester Airport - Future Airspace Modernisation Strategy

Manchester Airport is seeking to agree the broad principles to adopt when designing new flight paths.

Member Briefing 1342 - High Speed 2 (HS2) project

An independently led government review on the future of the HS2 project.

Member Briefing 1343 - Housing Allocations Policy Review consultation

The Council, working with key partners, has produced a new Housing Allocations Policy that sets out how social housing will be allocated in the borough. The draft policy went out to consultation on 9 September 2019 for a period of 12 weeks.

Member Briefing 1344 - Home to school transport – Tattenhall to Bishop Heber High

This briefing note is to inform members of changes to arrangements for mainstream home to school transport for pupils in the Tattenhall area.

Member Briefing 1345 - Making of the Tarvin Neighbourhood Plan

The purpose of this Briefing Note is to inform Members of the making of Tarvin neighbourhood plan and progress with other plans across the borough.

Introduction

Member Briefing 1346 - Cheshire Archives and Local Studies: National Lottery Heritage Fund grant award

Cheshire West and Chester Council, in partnership with Cheshire East Council, has been awarded a development stage grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) to deliver an ambitious new vision for Cheshire's archives

Full briefings attached

NALC FOCUS

Policy E-Briefing PC11-19 – NAO Audit Code of Practice Part Two.

The National Audit Office has issued the second part of its [consultation on the new Code of Audit Practice](#) which is due to come into force by 1 April 2020. NALC will be responding. The consultation is open for a period of 12 weeks.

Context & proposals

The NAO completed the first stage of its consultation on 31 May and published its own response to this at this [link](#). Schedule 6 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 requires that the Code be reviewed, and revisions considered at least every five years. The current Code came into force on 1 April 2015, and the maximum five-year lifespan of the Code means it now needs to be reviewed and a new Code laid in Parliament in time for it to come in to force no later than 1 April 2020.

In order to determine what changes might be appropriate, NAO are consulting on potential changes to the Code in two stages. The first stage is complete.

Stage 2 of the consultation involves consulting on the draft text of the new Code. To support stage 2, NAO have published a [consultation document](#), which highlights the key changes to each chapter of [the draft Code](#).

NALC is again minded to highlight:

- There is a difficulty for smaller local councils of the potentially high and disproportionate cost on a small authority when a concerted number of electors decide to raise a high number of minor / technical objections of a vexatious nature. We want to support the continued principle of proportionality (i.e. a lighter-touch for smaller bodies) and of safeguards to contain excessive fees brought about by habitual complainers.
- There should be the inclusion of a principle relating to proportionality in respect of smaller authorities, especially where the authority has an annual budget / turnover below £25k and is potentially exempt (i.e. smaller and subject to the Smaller Authorities' Transparency Code).
- We agree retention of the current bullet under clause 5.4 that the auditor should consider "the costs of dealing with the matter, bearing in mind that these are borne by the taxpayer" where to a smaller local council the costs of an audit investigation could cost more than the council's annual precept.
- NAO should also in our view work with NALC and the local council sector in the future to consider the need to revise upwards the financial turnover audit and accounts threshold of £6.5 million for the largest spending local councils in England.

Consultation questions

NALC would be grateful if you could please respond to the below specific questions and is interested in the sector's views:

- Do you think the updated draft Code should include more with respect to when auditors might be expected to use their additional powers?
- Do you think the current approach set out in the updated draft Code to undertake work at smaller authorities under specified procedures will enable auditors to continue to respond to the challenges at smaller authorities?

- Do you think the current approach to considering economy, efficiency and effectiveness at smaller authorities being appropriate and proportionate to the size of the bodies being reviewed is sufficiently reflected in the updated draft Code?

Your views

Please email your responses to this consultation to chris.borg@nalc.gov.uk by 17.00 on Friday 8 November 2019. County associations are asked to forward this e-briefing onto all member councils in their areas.

Other News

Free Parish Online Licences

BHIB is one of the UK's largest independent insurance brokers. Specialising in the Government sector, we insure Local Councils across the UK. We are proud to be partnered exclusively with Aviva, the UK's largest insurer and the preferred insurance supplier of the National Association of Local Councils (NALC).

One of the key insurance challenges for councils is to know exactly what assets they own and what liabilities they face. How many streetlights there are? When was the playground equipment last inspected? What is the value of the council offices? Who is liable if that tree falls across a road?

At BHIB we are always looking for ways to support councils to manage and reduce their risks, we know maintaining a comprehensive asset register makes a huge difference. Recommended as the preferred Digital Mapping System for Local Councils by NALC, Parish Online were the perfect partner to develop a comprehensive web-based Insurance Asset Register with.

BHIB Councils Insurance is now offering **FREE** Parish Online licences to all Councils who sign a three-year insurance contract with them AND maintain their Asset Register using Parish Online.

The full press release is attached, councils who wish to take advantage of this offer can enquire at enquiries@bhibcouncils.co.uk or call 0330 013 0036 quoting Free Parish Online.

6 MONTH COUNT-DOWN BEGINS FOR THE CHESHIRE AND WARRINGTON MIPIM 2020 PARTNERSHIP

Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership have launched the Cheshire and Warrington Partnership Programme for MIPIM 2020 (10th September), 6-months to the day until the world's largest property and corporate real estate festival opens again for its 30th year.

The event, hosted by law firm Knights Plc, welcomed businesses from across the North West to hear about the exciting programme of activity that will help to promote the strengths of Cheshire and Warrington as a place to invest, develop and locate. Working alongside Northern Powerhouse/NP11 colleagues, the UK Government and national destinations to also provide a compelling programme of thought-leadership, debate and discussion.

Building on previous years, MIPIM 2020 will mark the fourth consecutive year that Cheshire and Warrington LEP have led an influential delegation from across the private and public sectors, in 2019 gaining support from 75 delegates representing 38 businesses.

Speaking at the event, Philip Cox, Chief Executive of the LEP said: "2020 will be a milestone year for Cheshire and Warrington as we finalise our Local Industrial Strategy. We know that the ambitions within the Strategy are *absolutely* right and will ensure our economy continues to be one of the most successful and fastest growing in the country.

Working with public and private sector partners from across the North West, MIPIM provides a unique platform upon which to tell our story, to bring forward interest from investors and developers who can bring valuable capital to our sub-region, helping us to create the right conditions where businesses can thrive.

We wouldn't attend MIPIM without the valuable support of the local property community and our local authority colleagues, and once again look forward to working as a partnership to grow our delegation further but importantly put Cheshire and Warrington on the international stage."

John Loney, Partner at Knights Plc and MIPIM launch partner commented: "MIPIM provides an opportunity like no other to promote Cheshire and Warrington to an international audience, the collective efforts of the partnership ensure that we present a strong programme, with speakers and events that help to further raise our regions profile.

"Knights Plc continue to be a proud supporter of the Cheshire and Warrington programme, hosting the launch event, and working with the partnership to build further on previous years' success."

Cheshire and Warrington's theme for 2020 is People, Place and Performance. The full event programme will be launched later in the Autumn.

For businesses interested in joining the MIPIM 2020 delegation with Cheshire and Warrington visit www.871candwep.co.uk/mipim

Current Vacancies

Hatherton and Walgherton – Clerk/RFO

Full details can be found on the [ChALC Website](#)

Sandstone Ridge

Walk and Ride Festival Launch – Friday 4th October 7.00 – 9.30pm

Full details attached

Combating isolation and loneliness

helping residents combat isolation and loneliness in the community Hopes and Beams of Broad street Crewe CW1 3UD is offering free Sunday lunch to residents of Beechmere on the following dates:

Sunday 13, 22, 29th September
Sunday 6th, 13, 20, 27th October
Sunday 3, 10, 17, 24th November
Sunday 1st December Christmas Dinner

Contact Iain Chalmers on 01270255355