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NATIONAL ALC UPDATE – CORONAVIRUS

Discount for Zoom subscription

NALC have negotiated for local councils to be eligible to access a discounted package from Zoom. This means that councils can access the Pro plan for Zoom at £7.99 per month. The normal advertised rate for this package is £12.99. To access this discounted rate, email jane.ross@zoom.us and quote contract number CCS 020A33. When asked which department you are related to, state the National Association of Local Councils. Councils could still choose to use the free service from Zoom (allowing 40 mins meetings) — [set up an account](#). If you do choose to use Zoom, there is a range of free [information and training](#) to help people use the platform which is definitely worth having a look at to help get you started, in addition to what Gabbie has prepared (see below).

New regulations to extend audit deadlines

The regulations related to local council audit timeframes [were published](#) on 7 April and will come into force on 30 April. These extended the statutory audit deadlines for 2019/20. The Joint Practitioners Action Group (JPAG) will soon provide the addendum to the Practitioners Guide to layout fully for councils the new time frames that the government has put in place.

Neighbourhood planning

The government has provided [guidance](#) where the coronavirus situation impacts on neighbourhood planning including the referendum process, decision-making, oral representations for examinations, and public consultation — find it by scrolling to the very bottom of the [neighbourhood planning guidance](#).

Local Council meetings

For those interested in understanding how the new remote meetings regulations affect all local authorities – not just parish and town councils – Lawyers in Local Government (LLG) and the Association of Democratic Services Officers (ADSO) have also produced [guidance on the regulations](#) on how they affect all local authorities. NALC was pleased to contribute to sections related to local councils.

We will continue to summarise the guidance provided for you on the National ALC web page: <https://www.nalc.gov.uk/coronavirus> in the coming weeks

We have been impressed by what councils are up to in preparing to have virtual meetings.

If you have time, please complete our survey of the preparedness of Norfolk's town and parish councils at this present time for having virtual meetings here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NZKRSYQ>

NORFOLK UPDATE

Norfolk Community Foundation grants – click here to get [funding details and application forms](#) and follow this link to give a donation to support [Norfolk's Covid-19 Community Response Fund](#).

Once again this week we have heard about a lot of great work across the county– again, well done to all those town and parish councils delivering great practical help to residents at the present time! We are going to be compiling case studies/ press releases as soon as we get time – so please send us your examples now!

In the meantime, there are hundreds of great examples of the superb work being done by town and parish councils across the country that have already been collected nationally here (to which we will add those for Norfolk soon!): <https://www.nalc.gov.uk/library/news-stories/3221-coronavirus-case-studies/file>

Updating standing orders

If you want to have an example of NALCs template standing orders adapted for virtual meetings, let us know.

Anglian Water – They have asked us to help raise awareness of their Priority Service Register. Customers who sign up to the Priority Service Register can receive a range of additional support, including with bills, reading the water meter and where there are interruptions to the water supply. There are various ways for residents to sign up, including calling them on 0800 919 155 or going online at anglianwater.co.uk/priority

Other grants – there are quite a few around, but we noticed that the Tesco Bags of Help COVID-19 Communities Fund [here](#) will provide a single payment award of £500 to those who are supporting vulnerable groups, and applications are welcomed from voluntary/community organisations and parish/town councils.

KEEPING IN TOUCH – ZOOM MEETINGS NEXT WEEK

We will again be holding our Zoom conference calls next week.

Wednesday 15 April – Clerk Conference calls

South Norfolk, Broadland and GYBC member councils at 2pm.

North Norfolk, Breckland and KLWN member councils at 3.30pm.

Wednesday 15 April – Chairman Conference call

All member councils at 5pm.

Please email Russell for a link at countyofficer@norfolkalc.gov.uk (these links will be

TRAINING WEBINARS

Gabbie has been further developing here guidance to help clerks who are thinking of using Zoom for their meetings. Keep in touch with her at trainer@norfolkalc.gov.uk , including to help her build our training programme to match your needs for the coming weeks.

MEMBERSHIP

Thanks for getting our 2020/21 subscription payments to us.

If not already a subscriber, join us this year to keep up to date with latest developments and to access training, support and advice. We look to provide member councils with both the highest quality and the most complete range of services, including those of National ALC. As a new subscriber, we could be especially competitive on your subscription fee for the coming year. Please contact us to find out more.

AND FINALLY....

Remember to stay safe and hope everyone can have/will have had a good Easter break.



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