



Norfolk

Association of
Local Councils

Annual Report 2017-18



Advising ● Training ● Informing ● Representing ● Supporting

Executive Committee Chairman's 2017-2018 Report from Janet Holdom

It was an honour to be elected chairman again this year with a further opportunity to build on the developing programme of services we now offer subscribing members.

Services provided

We have again provided a wide range of advice and support during the year including:

- Advice on law, procedure & good practice, with access to specialist lawyers
- Access to local experts, such as for HR advice
- Website and IT support
- Training and development for Councils
- Training for the CiLCA Clerk qualification
- Recruitment support
- Awards, such as Clerk of the Year
- Newsletters and email bulletins
- Information on national policy and legislative changes
- Loan approval filtering and support
- Policy and lobbying support
- Exclusive access to the services of the National Association of Local Councils

Advice to local councils is one of the core services provided by Norfolk ALC. The need to be able to respond to demands whilst keeping costs down for members remains a priority with some support backed up by the network of county associations and access to Legal team at the National Association of Local Councils.

We provide website provision for around 200 councils with high quality training provided and one to one support either on site or remotely.

The Association continues to deliver regular and high quality training to our councillors and clerks, which each person within a council to understand and become better able to carry out their role. Our training reduces risks for councils in various ways, including disruption and costs arising from legal disputes, complaints and conflict with residents and missing opportunities for the community.

The Norfolk ALC conference event provided some high profile guest speakers and dealt with topical issues tailored to meet current concerns. Open to both councillors and clerks, they are an ideal way of updating our councils on all government policies and initiatives.

Clerk of the Year

Norfolk ALC continues to celebrate the achievements and high standards of its members with the annual Clerk of the Year Award. The overall winner will be announced at the AGM

Local Council Award Scheme

I would like to congratulate those councils achieving an award under the Local Council Award Scheme during the year.

The Organisation

Norfolk ALC remains a not-for-profit membership organisation providing a wide range of support services for its members. Policies and strategies for the organisation are decided by an Executive elected from among its member councils. This helps ensure that the needs of members are at the heart of the service delivered through a small team of officers.

As Chair of Norfolk ALC I would like to thank Executive members with a wealth of experience and knowledge, for their commitment and service to the Association ensuring it remains grass-roots driven. The Executive now comprises:

BRECKLAND: Shirley Matthews, Peter Wilkinson and Richard Leighton

BROADLAND: Barbara Lashley

GREAT YARMOUTH: Eric Lund

NORTH NORFOLK: Janet Holdom, Phil Harris, Heather Deegan

SOUTH NORFOLK: John W Pennell, Marie Francis

WEST NORFOLK Alan Evans and Doug Lawson

The Association would like to extend thanks to the Executive members who stood down in 2017/18.

I would like to pay tribute to the work of Ian Gibson as our President over the last year – he has livened up our various events held.

We should also particularly pay tribute to Jack Sadler, who died in the year, having been by far our longest service Executive member.

The National Association of Local Councils

The Association's relationship with the National body is strong and Norfolk ALC believes it is crucial to maintain close links to ensure lobbying access and that centrally provided services remain relevant and useful.

While most enquiries can be dealt with through its county office, Norfolk ALC uses NALC's Legal Team when complex matters requiring an expert opinion are essential.

Norfolk ALC also has formal influence through its National ALC representative, Peter Wilkinson. Our thanks to Peter as the National Association's Sustainable Communities Champion, who has been doing some important work, including lobbying on the impact of second homes in Norfolk and on the removal of business rates on public toilets.

Partnership Working

Norfolk ALC works with many other organisations in order to advance the interests of local councils. Our key partner is Norfolk County Council (NCC), with whom the Association has a service agreement. Thank you to Margaret Dewsbury who is our link Councillor, and to Ceri Sumner, our main officer link.

The Office

Norfolk ALC continues to mainly operate from its base in County Hall, but with services delivered across the county and events, training and meetings held in various locations. During the year, our service was being delivered by our team of Russell Reeve Vicky Powell and Helen Carrier, with Gabbie Joyce more recently joining the team.

On behalf of Norfolk ALC Executive Committee I'd like to thank all the team for their service and support to the committee and Association members throughout the year. I'd also like to say a special thank-you to our County Officer, Russell Reeve, whose reassuring expertise and dedication to the role of County Officer has made an enormous contribution to Norfolk ALC over the past couple of years. Thanks to Russell I finish my term of office as chairman at the end of this year, on an optimistic note, confident that friendly and efficient, quality support services continue to be our unique selling point!!

Financial outcome for year

The financial outcome for the 2017/18 year shows a surplus again being achieved. Copies of the statements are available. We were given an unqualified ('clean') audit opinion from our external auditor.

Janet Holdom October 2018



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