

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

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NALC CHIEF EXECUTIVE

ABOUT THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS AND LOCAL COUNCILS

- NALC is the sector body for local (parish and town) councils and councillors – run by councillors, for councillors and councils
- Partners with network of 43 county associations
- 10,000 councils, covering 92% of country, 35 million people including 16 million electors
- 100,000 councillors, spending 14 million hours supporting councils and improving their communities
- 3,500 local clerks represented by Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC)

ABOUT THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS AND LOCAL COUNCILS

- Raising £783 million through precepts, plus significant other income, investing around £2 billion in communities
- 5000 councils under £25,000, 120 councils over £1 million
- Doing more – health and well-being, climate emergency, youth services and more!
- Local councils are a force for good – voice for local communities, influencing other organisations, providing services and shaping local places
- In this year of election, our democratic mandate is key
- Working in partnerships for the benefit of their communities

COMPLICATED, CHALLENGING TIMES DEMAND INCLUSIVE, CO-OPERATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

- Local government finance and public spending challenge
- Health and wellbeing, mental health, Loneliness and isolation
- Housing and planning
- Cost of living
- Climate emergency
- Rural inequality
- Transport and connectivity
- Growth
- Anti-social behaviour/community safety
- Local councils can work with each other and others to make a difference on all these

PARISHES AND PARTNERSHIPS: TESTIMONIALS

“Joint-working, cooperation and collaboration between councils and between councils and other organisations provides for efficiency, effectiveness and ...public service improvement.”

- DCN report 2022

DCN BETTER LIVES
STRONGER ECONOMIES
DISTRICT COUNCILS' NETWORK

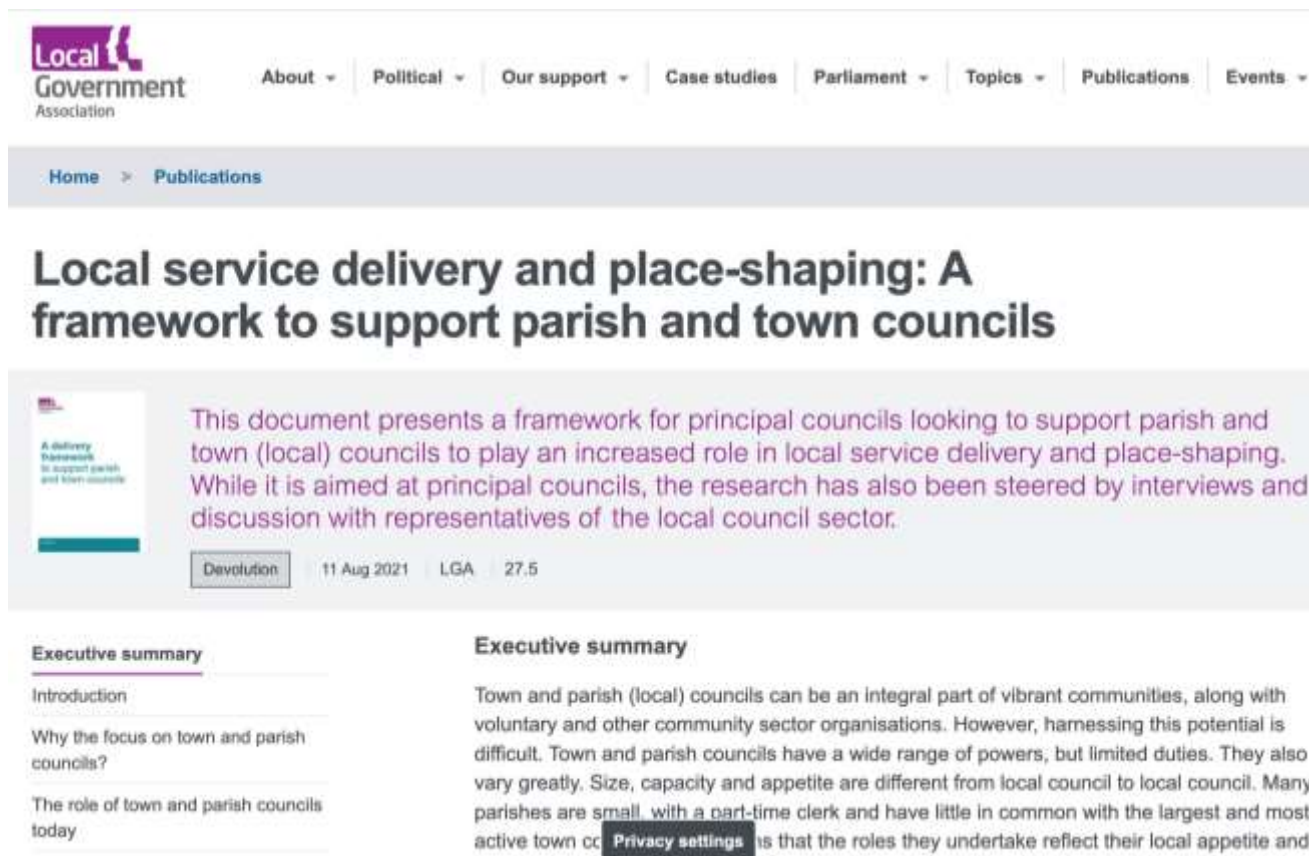
Bigger Is **Still Not Better**



PARISHES AND PARTNERSHIPS: TESTIMONIALS

“The potential of parish and town councils to contribute to vibrant and successful local and community governance has grown noticeably in the last decade.”

- Local Government Association (LGA) report 2021



The screenshot shows the Local Government Association (LGA) website. The header includes the LGA logo and a navigation menu with links: About, Political, Our support, Case studies, Parliament, Topics, Publications, and Events. Below the header, a breadcrumb trail shows 'Home > Publications'. The main heading is 'Local service delivery and place-shaping: A framework to support parish and town councils'. A summary box contains a thumbnail of the report cover, a description of the document's purpose, and metadata: 'Devolution', '11 Aug 2021', 'LGA', and '27.5'. Below this, there are two 'Executive summary' sections. The left section lists topics: 'Introduction', 'Why the focus on town and parish councils?', and 'The role of town and parish councils today'. The right section contains a paragraph of text about the role of town and parish councils, followed by a 'Privacy settings' button.

Local Government Association

About Political Our support Case studies Parliament Topics Publications Events

Home > Publications

Local service delivery and place-shaping: A framework to support parish and town councils

This document presents a framework for principal councils looking to support parish and town (local) councils to play an increased role in local service delivery and place-shaping. While it is aimed at principal councils, the research has also been steered by interviews and discussion with representatives of the local council sector.

Devolution 11 Aug 2021 LGA 27.5

Executive summary

Introduction

Why the focus on town and parish councils?

The role of town and parish councils today

Executive summary

Town and parish (local) councils can be an integral part of vibrant communities, along with voluntary and other community sector organisations. However, harnessing this potential is difficult. Town and parish councils have a wide range of powers, but limited duties. They also vary greatly. Size, capacity and appetite are different from local council to local council. Many parishes are small, with a part-time clerk and have little in common with the largest and most active town councils. It is that the roles they undertake reflect their local appetite and

Privacy settings

PARISH PARTNERSHIPS IN ACTION

- Critical areas where our sector can contribute to addressing these challenges include....
- Working with other tiers of local government to support current funding crisis – NALC published a [call for action](#) with some ideas
- Declare a climate emergency and work with other agencies locally, see our [website](#)
- Provision of affordable housing especially in rural areas through neighbourhood planning and exception sites - [English Rural toolkit](#)
- Work in partnership with other parishes to deliver services for residents where a critical mass is needed – e.g. community transport or road safety
- Pro-actively promoting [good health](#) – dementia friendly communities, mental health awareness, tackling loneliness, green spaces and play areas etc.....taking pressure off statutory services such as NHS, social care, youth services

SOME ASKS FOR YOU!

- Demonstrate good governance through the Local Council Award Scheme and signing the Civility and Respect Pledge
- Recognise the scale of the financial crisis and discuss with residents what their ambitions are
- Pro-actively reach out to other tiers and partner organisations
- Look at how you can work with or support other local councils
- Get to know your new MP, invite them to events and tell them what you're up to
- Encourage more people from all backgrounds to get involved in your council

NALC WORKING FOR YOU IMPROVING THE SECTOR: SERVICES

- Advice, guidance and resources – exclusive in member's area of NALC website and via county association
- Legal and financial topic notes, briefings and financial briefings including standing orders, financial regulations and practitioner's advice
- Toolkits/guides including on data protection, employment, planning, social media and finance (over 160,000 distributed/accessed)
- Working with Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) and others on sector improvement and good governance – 5000 clerks gained Certificate in Local Council Administration, 700+ councils achieved Local Council Award Scheme
- Training and development for councillors via county associations including e-learning

NALC WORKING FOR YOU IMPROVING THE SECTOR: SERVICES

- Access to legal, financial and HR advice services
- Wide range of networks to connect councils/councillors and share good practice – coastal communities, climate emergency, women cllrs, young cllrs, LGBT+ cllrs, super and micro-councils.....please join and promote!
- Monthly online events including with national service supplier partners – attended by 1,000s of cllrs each year
- NALC's model standing orders, model financial regulations and Good Councillor Guides available exclusively to member councils
- NALC/LGA Peer Challenge
- Web resources on climate change, young people, planning, health and wellbeing and elections – new website coming soon. 7 October!

NALC WORKING FOR YOU: ADVOCACY

- Engagement with Government and political parties on NALC manifesto and policy objectives including remote meetings, standards, councillor allowances, funding and more
- Good link/work with LGA and others
- Policy development through Policy Committee, informed by you!
- NALC lobbying has achieved...
 - no council tax referendum principles (capping)
 - access to £150 million Community Ownership Fund
 - exempted from requirement for external data protection officer, saving £3 million
 - increased understanding/profile of sector

NALC WORKING FOR YOU: ADVOCACY

- no business rates on public toilets, saving £4 million
- procurement of external audit for councils, saving £4 million
- slowed withdrawal of council tax support funding
- range of pandemic funding and flexibilities for councils (remote meetings and audit timescales)
- new provisions in Levelling Up and Regeneration Act e.g. power to provide financial assistance to church buildings
- Priorities: strengthen standards regime esp. sanctions, allow remote meetings, direct access to government funds, greater respect and awareness of the first tier of local government

GENERAL ELECTION 2024

- Labour 412 (+211)
- Conservative 121 (-251)
- Liberal Democrat 72 (+64)
- Green 4 (+3)
- Reform 5 (+5)
- 336 new MPs!
- New Labour government
- Angela Rayner, deputy prime minister at renamed Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

LABOUR MANIFESTO

- Missions: economic growth, clean energy superpower, take back our streets, break down barriers to opportunity, build an NHS fit for the future
- Planning reform: housing numbers, green/grey belt, onshore wind, new towns, strategic planning, planning officers
- Finance and audit: replace business rates system, multi-year funding settlements, end wasteful competitive bidding, overhaul the audit system
- Devolution: transfer power out of Westminster, devolving power to communities, legislation to take back control
- Standards: new Independent Ethics and Integrity Commission
- Community safety: Martyn's Law

NALC NEXT STEPS

- Engage with new ministers (re-engage with officials)
- Positive early signs including enthusiasm for engagement, looking at remote meetings, audit changes and neighbourhood planning
- Commission external public affairs agency to help engage with new MPs etc.
- Parliamentary president and vice-president and All-Party Parliamentary Group on local democracy
- Political party conferences in Autumn 2024
- Seek to influence relevant Bills in King's Speech (40c bills)
- Parliamentary reception in February 2025 and Star Councils awards

NALC NEXT STEPS

- Mobilising county associations and local councils, including:
 - councils and county associations encouraged to get to know their MPs
 - put engaging with MPs on your county association agenda and tell them the brilliant work councils do
 - councils encouraged to write a letter of congratulations to the newly elected MP in their area and invite them to a meeting or event and tell them what you do!
 - councils invited to include MP details in their newsletters and communications

SOME THANKS!

- To all the councillors and clerks for the work they do supporting their communities
- To county associations, county officers and staff, and their office holders for helping NALC and local councils
- To your county association representatives on our National Assembly and committees

FT BIG READ. LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Whitehall believes that boosting England's 10,000 parish councils could help revitalise democracy and level up the country. Critics say there is no panacea for the harms done by austerity.

By Peter Foster and Sebastian Payne



The government wants to give parish councils like Shrewsbury, above, a 'turbo boost'. Council chiefs Helen Ball, top, and Tony Hunt, below, approve

The potential of parochial politics

In the cramped offices of Shrewsbury town council, the wheels of local government are turning. The Midlands market town, which sits in a bend of the river Severn near



that's incredibly important to the future of this country has died a quick death because of [chancellor] Rishi Sunak."

But if the right formula of investment and autonomy can be achieved, then

Plymouth, Blackpool or Leicester. There is also a democratic deficit, with more than two-thirds of local councillors elected unopposed, according to a

says, "but we're waiting to see evidence that it is going to be meaningful. And it's not just about money, it's about handing down the powers to shape existing fund-

Hunt says the council also coordinates with the local chamber of commerce and local churches and is building a "Team Arundel" network of volun-