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From: "National Association of Local Councils"

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To: clerk@waddingham.gov.uk

Sent: 28/02/2020 16:45:37

Subject:  CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BULLETIN

Chief executive's bulletin

Floods

I want to start this week by sending our best wishes to all those affected by the terrible floods. And to say thank you to everyone working in and with our local (parish and town) councils, including their partner agencies, for their help and support to local people and communities. I know many councillors and clerks have been going above and beyond during this difficult time. Indeed, former homelessness minister, Heather Wheeler MP, raised the contribution local councils have made supporting communities, praising them for "working so hard to help their neighbours". In his response, the secretary of state for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), Robert Jenrick MP, agreed and said: "Serving on a [local] council is an important role in local democracy. I give my praise ... to all those who serve on [local] councils for the work they have done to support their local communities."

Debate on local government finance

The above exchange took place at the start of the debate on the local government finance settlement, which also saw Richard Holden MP, co-chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Local Democracy, keep up the pressure on the government by again calling for an end to the 'toilet tax'. You can read the debate in full here <<https://nalc.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=16886b5d6c31eade2f9a50027&id=b026c6acc8&e=580d489c41>>.

Baroness Scott appointed to government

Congratulations to Baroness Jane Scott who has been appointed as a government whip in the House of Lords. But unfortunately, this means Jane has had to stand down from her other roles, which include with NALC, the Local Government Association, County Councils Network and Wiltshire Council. I wanted to share Jane's statement with you: "I'm very sad at having to stand down as NALC's new president, having

only  
just had the honour and privilege of taking up this important role,  
and  
one I was very excited about. A consequence of my recent appointment  
as  
a government whip is relinquishing my other roles and interests.  
While I  
will, of course, miss these, I am looking forward to my new role in  
government.”

Trees!

Our colleagues and partners in the Tree Charter project, the  
Woodland  
Trust, held a parliamentary reception on 24 January and was attended  
by  
our head of policy and communications, Justin Griggs, and policy  
intern,  
Claire Goldfinch. Speeches included WT chief executive Darren  
Moorcroft  
and Defra minister Lord Zac Goldsmith – snippets and some pics are  
on  
the WT Twitter @WoodlandTrust  
<[https://nalc.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?  
u=16886b5d6c31eade2f9a50027&id=508a03630d&e=580d489c41](https://nalc.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=16886b5d6c31eade2f9a50027&id=508a03630d&e=580d489c41)>.

And on the Tree Charter project, be sure to check out January's tree  
charter newsletter  
<[https://nalc.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?  
u=16886b5d6c31eade2f9a50027&id=a7472c9541&e=580d489c41](https://nalc.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=16886b5d6c31eade2f9a50027&id=a7472c9541&e=580d489c41)>!  
It outlines the work of three councils that are doing excellent  
stuff  
around climate change, sustainability and planting trees: Ashburton  
Town  
Council in Devon  
<[https://nalc.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?  
u=16886b5d6c31eade2f9a50027&id=cb8e63d0ee&e=580d489c41](https://nalc.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=16886b5d6c31eade2f9a50027&id=cb8e63d0ee&e=580d489c41)>,  
Calne Town Council in Wiltshire  
<[https://nalc.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?  
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and, Sevenoaks Town Council in Kent  
<[https://nalc.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?  
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I would also like to announce that Tree Charter Day will be held on  
the  
28 November 2020, so get the date in your diary early! This is a  
great  
opportunity for our members to receive free trees from The Woodland  
Trust. Tree Packs can be ordered from the Woodland Trust Community  
Tree  
Packs website  
<[https://nalc.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?  
u=16886b5d6c31eade2f9a50027&id=a92750fc8c&e=580d489c41](https://nalc.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=16886b5d6c31eade2f9a50027&id=a92750fc8c&e=580d489c41)>.

Be sure to order your trees as soon as possible as the Tree Packs are given on a first come first serve basis and typically the Tree Nurseries run out of trees in May! Each Charter Branch is allocated a maximum of 420 trees. Finally, be sure to write 'Charter Branch' next to your name to ensure your application is accepted. For more information about how to get involved in the tree charter, please email [Claire.goldfinch@nalc.gov.uk](mailto:Claire.goldfinch@nalc.gov.uk).

### Joint Panel on Accountability and Governance

The Joint Panel on Accountability and Governance – made up of NALC, Society of Local Council Clerks, Association of Drainage Authorities, National Audit Office, MHCLG, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountants and external auditors – met on 24 January at the NALC office. They agreed on some changes to next year's Practitioners' Guide and approved SAAA's Annual Governance and Accountability Returns for 2019/20. And also noted 300 people had already responded to its recent survey with 86% saying they are aware of the Guide and only 2% not finding it useful. You have till close of play Monday to give your views, so do fill out the survey <<https://nalc.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=16886b5d6c31eade2f9a50027&id=750112c581&e=580d489c41>>.

### Meeting with DCMS

Andrew Tubb, NALC policy adviser, and I had a constructive meeting with a senior civil servant in the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport to discuss the government's developing plans to support its manifesto objectives to strengthen civil society and stressed the role local councils have in supporting this in so many ways: events and community facilities, place-shaping neighbourhood plans, signposting and social prescribing, supporting and encouraging volunteering and social action. It was a great opportunity for us to promote the NALC prospectus on ultra-localism and seek support for all urban and rural areas to have a local council through local government reorganisation and for

direct  
funding to the sector to meet a wide range of civil society  
objectives.

And finally...

Joint top of the league for our rapidly approaching Lobby Day  
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on 10 March is the Cumbria, Devon and Lincolnshire county  
associations,  
who have each secured meetings with four of their MPs that day in  
Parliament. Last month's meeting of National Assembly set a target  
for  
each county association to meet with at least three MPs, so well  
done  
those colleagues for leading the way! Colleagues in the policy and  
communications team are in close contact with county associations  
and  
are there to provide help and support. And a reminder that if local  
councils want to get involved to contact their county association.

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u=16886b5d6c31eade2f9a50027&id=b49b0e93d5&e=580d489c41](https://nalc.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=16886b5d6c31eade2f9a50027&id=b49b0e93d5&e=580d489c41)>  
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u=16886b5d6c31eade2f9a50027&id=69ecf6ab74&e=580d489c41](https://nalc.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=16886b5d6c31eade2f9a50027&id=69ecf6ab74&e=580d489c41)>  
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