



Chief executive's bulletin

Management Board

NALC's Management Board held its second remote meeting on 20 May, here's a summary:

- The board received an update on our business continuity, noting home working was proceeding well and there were regular catch up sessions with staff and county association colleagues.
- NALC's financial position remained good despite the loss of some income streams, and the board agreed to develop a strategy for online events over the next year including piloting a remote meeting of National Assembly.
- Councillors supported NALC's continued lobbying for government funding for councils facing financial challenges through a dedicated package of support including financial assistance.

Weekly county officer videoconference

Charlotte Eisenhart, head of member services hosted our weekly NALC and county officer meeting via Zoom on 20 May. Issues covered included finance and audit, next year's postponed local elections, and online training and learning. As this week is **Mental Health Awareness Week** we also took the opportunity to check-in as a team as to how we should keep working together to support one another.

Meeting with the Cabinet Office

Justin Griggs, head of policy and communications, Chris Borg, policy manager and Claire Goldfinch, projects officer met officials from the Cabinet Office on 19 May regarding next year's local elections. A minister-led steering group and a policy-led working group have been established to consider registration of voters, options for holding some polls before May 2021 and 2021 voting options. I'm pleased we are

inputting to this work and providing feedback on issues identified so far, and we will be drawing on input from county officers including those in areas with postponed elections. We also shared our recent [elections research](#) with officials and we will be continuing to press for changes set out in the report.

Climate change

Every Monday at 1 pm (except Bank Holidays) for the next few weeks, Climate Emergency UK are hosting webinars to create action plans to address and adapt to the climate and ecological emergencies with the urgency they demand. You can book your place [here](#) to participate live. Sessions will also be broadcast live on their [Facebook page](#) and [YouTube channel](#), and available afterwards.

Frome Town Council, a former winner of Council of the Year in NALC's Star Council Awards, has hosted a webinar called [Climate Emergency – What Next](#), which details how to go about embedding the principles of climate change into your council – do give it a watch!

NALC and HRSP webinar

I was delighted NALC and [HR Services Partnership](#) jointly hosted a Zoom webinar for county officers on 18 May, focusing on HR issues related to lockdown and returning to work. Over 30 colleagues joined the 40-minute session which covered government guidance and its application to local councils, how to handle the needs and concerns of staff, and considerations such as annual leave and contingency planning. Huge thanks to Maria Aguilar, HRSP director, for presenting such an excellent webinar which received positive feedback.

And finally...

At our weekly remote staff meeting, we took the opportunity of [Mental Health Awareness Week](#) to discuss how we are being kind to ourselves and others, sharing one of our last photos before lockdown or since then that makes us smile. I was also pleased to read this week how our partners [CCLA](#) are [building on their own mental health engagement programme](#) started in early 2019 by inviting other investors to join them in encouraging businesses to protect their employees' mental health during this challenging time. I was particularly struck by this concluding remark: "While a highly infectious disease spreads across the world, we are focussing our efforts on an invisible, non-communicable disease in the belief that if left unaddressed, mental illness will become the next global pandemic". Enjoy the Bank Holiday weekend and be kind to yourselves.



Jonathan...



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