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**Subject:** Fw: CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BULLETIN  
**Date:** 6 June 2020 at 08:49  
**To:** alison.watson@waddingham.gov.uk



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**From:** "National Association of Local Councils" <[newsletter@nalc.gov.uk](mailto:newsletter@nalc.gov.uk)>

**To:** [clerk@waddingham.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@waddingham.gov.uk)

**Sent:** 05/06/2020 15:47:25

**Subject:** CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BULLETIN

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## Chief executive's bulletin

### Coronavirus webpage update

Updates to our dedicated [coronavirus webpage](#) this week included on the Local Authority Discretionary Grants Fund and further guidance on managing facilities and public spaces.

### MHCLG ministerial webinar

Schools reopening and support for vulnerable children, plus easing and recovery measures were the key issues covered in this week's Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) ministerial webinar for local government leaders. Our chairman, Cllr Sue Baxter, joined the webinar and submitted two questions to the local government minister, Simon Clarke MP, who hosted the webinar, about involving our tier of local government alongside other stakeholders in the ministerial economic recovery working group, and seeking engagement over the role of local councils in plans for local lockdowns.

### Looking after your health

I am pleased to have [partnered with Team Doctor](#) to support local council teams during these difficult times. Team Doctor has produced a series of bite-sized films to help people address some of the major issues which occur in and around the

workplace. The films contain some of the UK's leading experts, giving clear and practical information and advice. This is available to councils free for two months, so please do take a look and support your own and your colleagues' health today.

### **New guidance on website accessibility**

During the lockdown, I know many of you have likely been using online products and services more than ever before. So now more than ever having a local council website that is as accessible as possible is important. In order to help you, NALC has produced **new guidance** on how to comply with the website accessibility regulations that come into force in September this year.

### **Webinar for county officers on risk management**

This week NALC and our partners **BHIB Councils Insurance** hosted a webinar for county officers to support them in advising member councils on risk management. Effective and regular risk assessment and management will be key to re-opening facilities and services safely, in line with government rules and guidelines. And next week we will be launching a new guide for local councils on this topic, so watch this space!

### **The future of council meetings**

Our head of member services, Charlotte Eisenhart, took part in a number of meetings this week with county officers as well as national bodies such as the Local Government Association, Lawyers in Local Government, Association of Democratic Services Officers and Centre for Public Scrutiny, as part of NALC's work to understand and advise on how local council meetings can operate effectively into the future once lockdown restrictions start to ease. This work will include updating our guidance on remote meetings to help councils consider how to hold effective, compliant and accessible meetings once face to face or even hybrid (a mix of physical and remote) meetings are able to take place again. We will also be considering whether the current temporary regulations which come to an end next year, should continue in order to provide ongoing flexibility for councils.

### **Local Council Award Scheme**

Following the success of the initial pilot, the national accreditation panel for the Local Council Award Scheme undertook another pilot starting in February 2020. I'm delighted to congratulate Welwyn Parish Council for achieving the Foundation Award and Pilsley Parish Council for achieving the Quality Award. Huge thanks to the members of the panel for their commitment as part of this process.

## Council tax statistics

MHCLG published [Council Tax statistics for town and parish councils in England 2020/21](#) on 3 June. This provides information on local precepting authorities (local councils, charter trustees and Temples) and the amount of council tax collected on their behalf by their billing authorities in England. We're currently poring over this data and will be publishing our analysis next week.

## Media coverage

I would encourage you to check out [BBC Radio 4's The Spark](#) on former NALC Star Council of the Year, Frome Town Council, and how they are using their 'flatpack democracy' approach to pioneer a new kind of local politics. And council funding continues to get some local media coverage by [The Isle of Thanet News](#), [Signal 107](#), and [BBC Radio Wiltshire](#). And in case you missed it, [ITV news](#) also ran a story including interviews with Sue, Shrewsbury Town Council in Shropshire and Castle Donington Parish Council in Leicestershire, where Sue called for financial support and working with the government to find a solution.

## And finally...

As Volunteers Week draws to an end over the weekend, I want to say a huge thank you to all local councillors who volunteer their time to hold public office and make a difference to their community. And to all the volunteers you work with and play their part, particularly in recent months. You can catch up and stay tuned on how we have been promoting you on our Twitter at [@nalc](#), including our latest *Points of Light* publication showcasing some of your brilliant initiatives such as rural cinemas, staycation festivals, community breakfasts, affordable housing, growing food for the homeless, and a youth skills manager.

*Jonathan Owen*



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