

COUNTY UPDATE

Special Edition— Serving Communities Across Essex

No 179

New Decade..... New CEO

Chief Executive Officer
Charlene Slade



'This is a fantastic opportunity for me and I am ready and focused to take on this role with enthusiasm, drive and ambition. During the last three years as the Finance Officer, I have gained huge knowledge and understanding of the EALC and the complex structure, members and partners. My financial knowledge is key to moving the EALC forward for future planning and sustainability. Our highly professional training programme and legal support services will always remain our top priority, whilst looking for new areas where value can be added to our Member Councils.'

The Future Visions of the EALC Membership

Communications & Information Sharing

Access to EALC Staff Monday—Friday via email, telephone and appointment

NEW Covid 19 updates **NEW**

NEW Website—Interactive website development / Online Booking / Payments **NEW**

Social Media - Facebook www.facebook.com/EssexAssociation / Twitter @EALCnews

Monthly **Legal Newsletter** - General information of relevant, new and currently legislation

Monthly **County Update** - Sharing Council news and best practice

Larger Local Councils Forum - Sharing best practice

Local Council Training

A comprehensive Training Calendar

NEW Online Training Programme **NEW**

Saturday briefings, courses and workshops

Chairman, Councillors & Clerks training

Short Courses

Available by agreement at evening or weekends in Councils own premises

NEW Training Hubs for distant Members **NEW**

Clerks qualification (Essex Equals)

EALC is the only provider locally of registered tutors
NEW mentoring / Introductory Module **NEW**

Local Council Development

Legal Advice / Support (Essex Legal Services)

Specialist HR Support (VineHR)

NALC Services

Website 24/7, Legal Topic Notes, Briefings

Employment Guidance / Procedural Support / Tool Kits

NEW Internal Audit Portfolio for Members **NEW**

Health & Wellbeing

Including Training, Parish Sector Plans & Boards

Local Council Awards Scheme

Mapping & Sharing Best Practice

NEW Payroll Service Portfolio for small Councils **NEW**

Delivering Grant Funds on behalf of ECC

The Chairman, Cllr. Peter Davey Reports

In this special County Update edition we set out how the Association is continuing to work hard for the membership, whilst proactively embracing and implementing new initiatives together with Essex County Council, NALC and our Partners.



We are in good shape and need your support for the coming year in order to be able to continue this good work. Through your continuing membership we can develop new work streams and deliver services to support your Communities. As you can see from this special services update the EALC together with the ECC and NALC is being extremely proactive in its mission to support the important work of Town and Parish Councils in Essex and to make your voices heard at national level on key issues directly affecting your communities. Examples of this is the collaboration with Essex County Council and the Local Government Association to launch the Health and Wellbeing, Climate Emergency and devolution initiatives.

In my capacity as Chairman, I wish to thank Essex County Council for the continued support & financial commitment to enable services to be delivered to the Local Council sector in Essex.

NALC Membership

In addition to the Covid 19 initiatives the NALC have instigated they will continue to offer the following services:

As Members of the EALC, you are also Members of the NALC who support the sector, provide services, lobby government and deliver services to both Member Councils and the EALC.

The EALC supports the management of the NALC, with the EALC Chairman Councillor Peter Davey being the National Board Member. Cllr Davey now Chairs the Finance and Scrutiny Committee, which provides a seat on the Management Board. Through his work we have a direct influence on the strategic initiatives being implemented at the NALC.

NALC Service Provision includes

- ◆ Legal advice (desk top) from the NALC free of charge
- ◆ Access to Council Financial Advice free of charge, including model Financial Regulations and regular briefings
- ◆ Access to the NALC Members section of the web site
- ◆ Access to 110 Legal Topic notes 24/7, with regular updates and revised documents
- ◆ NALC Publications, Standing Orders, Financial Regulations
- ◆ HR Support (desk top only) - Model HR Policy documents— Model Contract
- ◆ Support for the Local Council Awards
- ◆ Larger Local Councils Forum
- ◆ Lobbying Government—currently working on the issues of Business Rates
- ◆ Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments Ltd
- ◆ Successful Lobbying to securing government funding for Neighbourhood Planning
- ◆ County Officers training and Development, and networking

Legal Support to EALC Member Councils: A referral system via Charlene Slade at the EALC County Office in Great Dunmow. Please contact the EALC for further information.

Delivering Services For The Membership under the Direction of Member Councils

The vision of the EALC is to provide the right level of support, embrace changes in the sector to support Local Councils and create the right conditions to enable the sector to thrive.

Health & Wellbeing



Our vision of embracing the Health and Wellbeing agenda will enable Local Councils to have the ability to lead the communities across Essex to achieve the needs wants and ambitions of the people we serve.

We provide a communications service, informing Local Councils of all the initiatives being rolled out across the county.

We have created a Health and Wellbeing Board for Local Councils with the viewpoint to promoting best practice, removing barriers and promoting initiatives throughout the county and promote the free training which is available in parishes, currently Mental Health First Aid Training and J9 Domestic Abuse Training.

We are currently assisting Local Councils to consider creating a Health & Wellbeing plan. A Health and Wellbeing plan is a way Local Councils can look at what they would like to do in a given times to enhance the lives of their residents. It will concentrate on five areas to help guide and it will be a live document as you

Grant Funding

The EALC had a busy year for grant funding, administering various grant schemes on behalf of Essex County Council to support new initiatives and projects that benefit the wider community. The first round of CIF funding completed in October 2019 with an addition fund based on Emergency projects.

The second year of the CIF fund will be launched on 1st April 2020 for grants of up to £10,000 for capital and revenue projects. There will be a pre application process followed by a full application form to be submitted if you pass the pre application stage. More details on the website: www.ealc.gov.uk

The Micro-grant is designed to be quick and easily accessible to help community projects at grass roots level. The maximum amount of £500 for projects that support social isolation, improve well being and support better connected communities.

The EALC also worked with NHS England to provide a grant scheme to support the prevention of men's suicide in Tendring and Colchester.

Training & Development

Training is an integral part of the successful and innovative Parish and Town Council. Our training courses help Councils reach their full potential, giving them knowledge; skills; competencies; best practice and legal guidance.

With the launch of our Online Training Programme and the vision of new Training Hubs around Essex, it will enable the EALC to reach our distant Members.

The Local Council Award Scheme has been designed to celebrate the successes of the very best local councils, and to provide a framework to support all local councils to improve and develop to meet their full potential. The scheme offers councils the opportunity to show that they meet the standards set by the sector, assessed by their peers, and to put in place the conditions for continued improvement. The EALC is currently leading the way as Top County with 57 Accreditations for the Local Council Awards Scheme.

Essex Association of Local Councils

Member Led Governance

The EALC is a Member led body (bottom up), serving the needs of the Local Councils in Membership. The staff are directed by an Executive Committee comprising of representatives (Executive Members), elected by local groupings (Association of Local Councils). 2 representatives (1 in Southend & Castlepoint) sit on the EALC Executive which directs the work of the EALC. The Executive meets 6 times a year.

These local groupings form part of the EALC structure, and help direct the work of the Association via the Executive Members. The aim of the EALC must be to deliver excellent services to the Membership and to do this whilst working with others and promoting the sector.

There is a Constitution, Standing Orders and Financial Regulations. This Association is directed by the Membership, and guided by you the Members.

Representation

- Essex Health and Wellbeing board
- Safer Essex
- Rural Crime Forum
- Essex Partnership
- Essex Rural Partnership Strategic Board
- Essex Rural Partnership
- NALC County Officers Forum
- NALC Management Board
- NALC Finance and Scrutiny Committee
- Essex Community Initiative Funds

Partnership Working

The EALC has an important role in liaising with local, regional and national bodies to ensure that Communities are best served. Working with Local Council sector & Voluntary Sector with support capacity building in our Communities.

EALC Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held on **Thursday 25th September 2020** .

The event is free to attend for Member Councils, and comprises of the formal AGM Business and an annual conference including good quality speakers on matters of interest. At the end of the day, the EALC holds its Annual Awards Ceremony where presentations are made to Councils, celebrating great achievement. (Celebrating 125 years of the Parish/Town Council Sector)

Staff Members:

Chief Executive Officer	Charlene Slade
EALC Advisor	Joy Darby
Executive County Training Officer	Pearl Willcox
Parish Support Officer	Amanda Brown
Funding Officer	Louise Gambardella
Office & Training Coordinator	Rebecca Sheppard
Health & Wellbeing Officer	Danielle Frost
Sage Administrator	Lucy Alston-Nogueria

Office Opening Hours

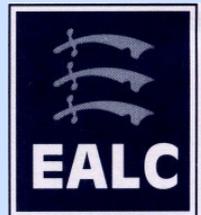
Monday to Thursday: 9.00am to 5.00pm
Friday: 9.00am to 4.00pm

Address

42B High Street, Great Dunmow, Essex, CM6 1AH

Telephone

01371 879722



Essex County Council Partnership Working:

The EALC wishes to thank Essex County Council for the continued support & financial commitment to enable services to be delivered to the Local Council sector in Essex. The EALC Executive would like to record their sincere thanks to Essex County Council Leader, the Chairman Cabinet Members and Elected Members, for the commitment and partnership working that supports and develops our vibrant communities across Essex.

