



# Essex Association of Local Councils

County Update: Special Edition

*Serving Communities Across Essex*

Issue No. 206



Essex County Council

# The Future Visions of the EALC

## Communications & Information Sharing

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

New Website - Interactive website development / Online Booking / Payments

Social Media - Facebook/ Twitter/ Instagram

Monthly Legal Update - General information of relevant, new and current legislation

Monthly Association Newsletter – County Updates Sharing Council stories & new guidance

Larger Local Councils Forum - Sharing best practice

Weekly Bulletins - e-Bulletin, Job Bulletin, Training Bulletin, Funding Bulletin, Police Bulletin, Health & Wellbeing Bulletin

## EALC CEO, Charlene Slade

Little did I know that in my first year of appointment as CEO, the EALC would face a worldwide pandemic. The famous words resonated in me to 'Keep Calm and Carry on', and so the EALC has continued as always to provide the best possible service for Parish and Town Councils across Essex. Supporting member Councils to meet the many challenges experienced by residents. We have been successful in moving most of our primary training courses online.



There will remain a hybrid of remote and office-based training to deliver high quality courses across Essex. The EALC are committed to driving health and wellbeing, climate crisis and youth engagement initiatives forward, through you. Our Parish and Town Councils are at the heart of our communities, reaching out in ways we never thought possible. Through your affiliation in 2021, the EALC will continue to work closely with you and our partners to ensure that all Parish and Town Councils are able to build a sustainable and brighter future.

### Parish & Town Council Training

A comprehensive Training Calendar

Online Training Programme

Saturday Courses and Briefings

Full Chairman, Councillors & Clerks training

Short Courses currently delivered online to your parish or town council

Bespoke Courses consisting of Cemetery, Village Halls, Allotments

Certificated Courses - Fire Safety, Health and Safety, First Aid & Risk Assessment

Clerks qualification CiLCA delivered by the EALC registered tutors via zoom

### Parish & Town Council Development

Membership Legal Enquiries & Guidance

NALC Services

Website 24/7, Legal Topic Notes, Briefings  
Internal Audit Portfolio for Members

Health & Wellbeing

*Including Training, Parish Plans & Boards*

Local Council Awards Scheme

Mapping & Sharing Best Practice

Delivering Grant Funds on behalf of ECC

Referrals for:

Legal Support via Essex Legal Services

Specialist HR Support VineHR  
Employment Guidance, Procedural Support, Tool Kits

## EALC Chairman, Cllr Peter Davey

I hope this special County Update edition finds you and your family well. As Chairman of the EALC I am incredibly proud of the amazing work and how quickly you have responded, playing a vital role in a national effort to tackle the pandemic this last year. I wish to thank all Parish and Town Councils across Essex.



The Association like every other organisation, has experienced and overcome significant challenges this year. The EALC has continued to work hard for the membership, whilst proactively embracing and implementing new initiatives together with Essex County Council, NALC and our Partners.

Through your continuing membership, we can develop new work streams and deliver services to support your Communities and continue to deliver high quality sector specific training. 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 County and National level on key issues directly affecting your communities.

To strengthen the relationship between the EALC, the ECC and the County of Essex, I am also a member of the Independent Climate Commission, the Essex Health and Wellbeing Board, the Essex Honours Panel, the Rural Crime Forum, Safer Essex, and the ERP Strategic Board. This is in addition to my Board position at the NALC allowing me to fully promote the great work being done in Essex to a national audience.

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

## NALC Membership

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 desk top advice 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
- Dedicated Coronavirus Webpage.

Legal Support to EALC Member Councils can be obtained via our referral email system [legal@ealc.gov.uk](mailto:legal@ealc.gov.uk) Please contact Charlene Slade for further information.

## Delivering Services Under the Direction of Member Council

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

### Local Council Awards Scheme

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 66 Accreditations for the Local Council Awards Scheme.

### 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 & promoting initiatives throughout the county and promote the free training which is available in parishes, currently Mental Health First Aid Training, J9 Domestic Abuse Training & Learning Disability Awareness Training.

We are assisting Local Councils to create a Health & Wellbeing plan. Supported by Health and Wellbeing Being Forums. A Health and Wellbeing plan is a way Local Councils can look at what they would like to do in a given time 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 respond to identified needs of your community.

### 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 throughout the county.

During the pandemic on behalf of ECC, EALC have awarded £289,363 through the October Half Term, Winter Christmas Support & Lockdown Fund.

The Second round of CIF funding completed in October 2020 with an addition fund based on Emergency projects.

More details on the association website: [www.ealc.gov.uk](http://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. Launch of additional funding to support Communications and Technology in response to the pandemic.

### Training Development

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

Training Courses & Webinars have continued online through the pandemic to provide vital training to the membership. Online training modules through the Nimble e-learning platform are also available.

## Member Led Governance

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

These local associations form part of the EALC structure and help direct the work of the EALC 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
- Essex Partnership
- Essex Rural Partnership Strategic Board
- Essex Rural Partnership
- Essex Community Initiative Funds
- Essex Climate Action Commission
- NALC County Officers Forum
- NALC Management Board
- NALC Finance and Scrutiny Committee
- Safer Essex
- Rural Crime Forum

### 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 23rd September 2021—SAVE THE DATE***

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 127 years of the Parish and Town Council Sector*

#### **Staff Member:**

Chief Executive Officer	Charlene Slade
Executive County Training Officer	Pearl Willcox
Parish Support Officer	Amanda Brown
Communications Officer	Eli Haines/ Rebecca Sheppard
Funding Officer	Louise Gambardella
Health & Wellbeing Officer	Danielle Frost
Sage Administrator	Lucy Alston-Nogueira

#### **Office Details:**

Monday-Thursday: 09:00 to 17:00  
Fridays: 08:30 to 16:00

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*The Essex Association of Local Councils would like to thank Essex County Council for their continued support of, and financial commitment to our activities and services in the parish sector of Essex.*