

National Association of Local Councils <newsletter@nalc.gov.uk>

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## Emerging trends in local government finance

24 April 2024 — 12.00 – 13.15

As local government grapples with unprecedented financial challenges, with some principal authorities facing administration, engaging in a discourse that focuses on fortifying economic resilience in the strategic planning of local (parish and town) councils is imperative. Take advantage of this chance to gain practical knowledge on safeguarding local councils from prevalent financial threats anticipated to impact local government entities in the years ahead.

Speakers: Annie Child (Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments), Derek Kemp (NALC advisor), Cllr Graham Oakes (Yeovil Town Council) and Steve Parkinson (The Parkinson Partnership LLP)

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## Unleashing the power of local councils to tackle the climate emergency

26 June 2024 — 12.00 – 13.15

Empower your local council to force change in the fight against climate change and biodiversity loss. Despite their potential, many smaller councils feel shackled by a lack of funding and disempowered in making a tangible impact. It's time to change that narrative. This is not just another event – it's a call to action! Walk away with practical, actionable insights your council can implement to make a real change. The fight against climate change starts at the grassroots level, and your council can be a driving force. Seize this opportunity to transform your council into a catalyst for positive environmental change. Together, let's make a lasting impact on our planet's future.

Speakers: Garry Ford (Corsham Town Council) and Richard O'Callaghan (The Woodland Trust)

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## Decoding the future of AI in local governance

Dive into the world of artificial intelligence (AI) and explore the realm of predictive analytics in local council settings. While our initial thoughts about AI might drift towards Hal from 2001: A Space Odyssey, the current focus is on predictive analytics and harnessing historical data to forecast new instances or cases. Hear directly from experts who have conducted a groundbreaking report for the Local Government Association on AI in local government, a principal authority utilising assistive technology, and a communications stakeholder in the sector. Gain valuable insights into how predictive analytics could shape the future of local councils and grapple with the broader moral dilemma presented by AI.

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## **The future of neighbourhood plans**

25 September 2024 — 12.00 – 13.15

Despite the government dragging its feet on supporting funding for neighbourhood planning, the confirmation eventually came through, solidifying its commitment to neighbourhood planning. In this area, local (parish and town) councils shine. Rediscover the passion for launching and shaping a neighbourhood plan in your area and access indispensable tips, guidance, and advice necessary to embark on this pivotal undertaking.

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## **Mastering emergency planning**

23 October 2024 — 12.00 – 13.15

The impact of COVID-19 has underscored the undeniable truth that local (parish and town) councils must always be prepared for emergencies, regardless of the cause. Fortunately, local councils are key players in supporting recovery from various emergencies. Take this opportunity to gain exclusive insights into how your local council can proactively plan for and champion recovery in emergencies from an insider's perspective, complete with tips and guidance on navigating these critical scenarios to benefit your community, including applying Martyn's Law for potential local terrorist incidents.

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## **The quest for devolution in local governance**

20 November 2024 — 12.00 – 13.15

Despite the promising rhetoric of levelling up, devolutionary outcomes for local (parish and town) councils must be more impressive. With minimal attention in the Levelling Up the United Kingdom White Paper in 2022 and ongoing delays in the government's planned neighbourhood governance review, it appears the commitment to devolving more powers to local councils has not been fully realised. Reignite your passion for advocating increased devolved services in your area and receive practical advice on empowering your local council to navigate the evolving landscape effectively.

## **Empowering the young councillors of tomorrow**

13 December 2024 — 12.00 – 13.15

Recognising that young people shape our future, it is imperative for all local (parish and town) councils to actively involve them in vital service areas that impact their lives. Moreover, the young individuals engaged by local councils today might emerge as tomorrow's local councillors, emphasising the ongoing necessity for such engagement. Gain a strategic advantage for your local council in effectively involving young people in caring for their community. Discover how to cultivate their interest in becoming the local councillors of the future.

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## **Navigating rural realities**

29 January 2025 — 12.00 – 13.15

While approximately 70% of local (parish and town) councils thrive in rural areas with populations under 10,000, the national spotlight often leans towards urban agendas, assuming that the most deprived areas are urban. Gain a competitive edge in addressing the intricate challenges that rural councils face, and leave with valuable, practical advice and tips to steer your local council confidently into the future.

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## **Is the fight for standards a losing battle?**

26 February 2025 — 12.00 – 13.15

It's no secret that without robust sanctions, local government at every level faces an uphill battle against the declining standards of behaviour. Yet, it's a moral imperative to strive to reverse this tide. Unlock the strategies your local council can employ to support national campaigns to enhance behaviours during council meetings. Learn practical measures that local councils can implement to drive positive change.

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## **Breaking the mould of local councils**

26 March 2025— 12.00 – 13.15

The prevailing notion of retired, predominantly male local (parish and town) councillors persists, echoing the enduring image from the Vicar of Dibley era despite ongoing national campaigns to challenge this perception. Uncover the secrets of success for your council in

attracting a broader, more diverse range of candidates willing to volunteer as local councillors against all odds.

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