

# Essex Association of Local Councils

*Supporting local town and parish councils within  
Essex*

## County Update: Special Edition



**April 2023**



# Cllr Peter Davey, Chair of EALC

## Dear Member Councils,

I hope this special edition of the County Update finds you and your family well. As the EALC Chair, I am incredibly proud of the amazing work that Parish and Town Councils undertake on behalf of their communities. This not only encompasses the vital role you have played as part of national efforts to tackle the levelling up agenda, but also for maintaining focus on the key issues around Climate Change and Health and Wellbeing.



Like every other organisation, the EALC continues to experience and overcome significant challenges. The EALC works actively on behalf of its members, in promoting the professionalism and capabilities of Parish & Town Councils whilst embracing and implementing new initiatives in partnership with Essex County Council, NALC, the Police Fire & Crime Commissioner and numerous other Essex based organisations.

Through your continuing membership, our focus and objectives are to continually invest in the EALC through updating our processes and develop new work streams that will deliver high quality services to support the work of member councils, the forefront of which being the design, development and delivery of high-quality sector-specific training. As can be seen within this Special Services Update, the EALC in partnership with ECC and NALC is extremely proactive in its mission to support the important work undertaken by Essex Town and Parish Councils, to ensure your collective voice on key community issues is heard and understood at both County and National levels.

As the EALC Chair, I believe it is important to promote our sector and fully engage with the many organisations whose aim is to help enhance the lives of Essex residents. To this end, I am a member of the Independent Climate Commission, the Essex Health and Wellbeing Board, Essex Honours Panel, Rural Crime Forum, Safer Essex, and the Essex Rural Partnership Strategic Board. Nationally I am the Vice Chair (Finance) of NALC and a member of the Management Board. .

I wish to record my thanks to all Essex Parish and Town Councils Councillors and Clerks for their continuing support of their communities and also to Cllr Kevin Bentley, the leader of Essex County Council and the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner - Roger Hirst, for their continued support and transparent collaborative working with the EALC for the benefit of our residents and their financial commitment which enables the EALC to deliver quality services to our Local Councils.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peter Davey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Cllr Peter Davey, Chair of the EALC**

# The Future Visions for the EALC

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 were successful in moving most of our primary training courses online during the last two years and we are delighted to announce that the training centre has opened to facilitate in house training whilst we recognise the need for online training for the membership. 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 action and youth engagement initiatives forward, through you. Our Parish and Town Councils are at the heart of our communities and through the work you do our county is a better place to be. Through your affiliation in 2023/24, the EALC will continue to work closely with you and our partners on your behalf to ensure that all local councils are able to build a sustainable and brighter future.

*Charlene Slade AATQB CiLCA, Chief Executive Officer*

# 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.



*The Essex Association of Local Councils would especially 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*

# Member Led Governance

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The EALC is a Member led body, governed by its Constitution, Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Internal Controls and Treasury Management policies, serving the needs of the Local Councils in Membership. The staff are directed by an Executive Committee which oversees the work of the EALC. The Committee comprises of Executive Members elected by the District Association's of Local Councils. The Committee meet six times a year.

The aim of the EALC is, and will remain, to be to deliver excellent services to the Membership and to do this whilst working with others and promoting the sector.

# 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 Chair Councillor Peter Davey in the roles he holds, 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, including model Financial Regulations and regular briefings
- Access to the NALC Members section of the web site
- Access to 89 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, free webinars and one to one support
- Local Councils Forum, enabling members to discuss hot topics
- Lobbying Government on your behalf on key topics
- Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments Ltd
- County Officers training and development, and networking

**Legal Support to EALC Member Councils can be obtained via our referral email system [legal@ealc.gov.uk](mailto:legal@ealc.gov.uk).**

# Benefits of EALC Membership

## Communications and Information Sharing

It is vital that our members are kept up-to-date with the latest information from the EALC and partners. We follow current trends to make sure our members get the most relevant information when they need it. This includes:



- Live support via email, telephone and appointment via the EALC Offices;
- An interactive website with resources, partner links and information;
- Regular newsletters with resources, partner links and information;
- Legal e-bulletin with regular updates including new and current legislation;
- Local Council's Forum- sharing best practise within the sector.

## Parish & Town Council Training



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

Our Training programme consisting of courses, briefings and webinars are now available inhouse and online to provide vital training to the Membership. Our Online training modules through the Nimble e-learning platform are also available.

### This includes:

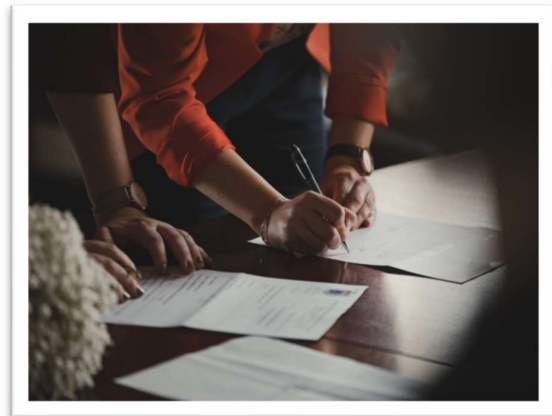
- A comprehensive Training Calendar throughout the year
- Online Training Programme
- Saturday Courses
- 3 day Chair Training Programme, 2 day Councillor Training Days, Core Courses &
- New Clerks training
- Selection of topical briefings
- Short Courses (2 hours) delivered in person to your Parish or Town Council
- Bespoke Courses consisting of Cemetery, Village Halls, Allotments, Routine Playground Inspection course & exam
- Certificated Courses - Fire Safety, Health and Safety, First Aid & Risk Assessment
- Clerks qualification CiLCA
- delivered by the EALC CiLCA recognised trained tutors.

# Benefits of EALC Membership

## Legal Enquiries & Guidance

*Referrals for-*

- Legal Support via Essex Legal Services
- Specialist HR Support with WorkNest
- Employment Guidance, Procedural Support, Tool Kits.



## Health and Wellbeing Support



EALC continue to give support and guidance on Health, Wellbeing and Climate Change via regular updates, briefings and sources of information accessible via our website.

We have grown and cemented our links with our partners and signposted their initiatives to increase support to the membership.

Looking to the future we are revising the strategy for our Health and Wellbeing Board inline with the new ECC Health and Wellbeing strategy which is due to be adopted later this year. This will concentrate on supporting initiatives directly linked to the levelling up agenda and the wider determinants of health.

We are working with experts in Health, Wellbeing and Climate Change to strengthen the parish voice in all stakeholder areas.

We are continuing to promote mental health, wellbeing forums, suicide awareness, domestic abuse and dementia training through our key partners, keeping you better informed.

# Benefits of EALC Membership

## Grant Funding

The EALC has had another successful year administering grant funding on behalf of Essex County Council.

After the success of Foodbank Funding in 2021, two new schemes were launched for Food Support and Winter Warmth. These were for provision of food, winter warmth essentials and warm spaces. A total of £442,723.50 was awarded.

We were pleased to administer funds towards supporting events for RideLondon. RideLondon inspires people to get active, bringing people together. £14,997.00 was awarded.

The CIF scheme for 2022/23 awarded £170,908 to 27 organisations, and a further £19,690 for those with Emergency projects.

The Micro Grant schemes for small grants up to £500 awarded a total of £46,801.00 to 100 applicants throughout the year.

For the latest funding opportunities please visit:

[The Essex Association of Local Councils – Supporting Local Councils across Essex \(ealc.gov.uk\)](http://ealc.gov.uk)



# Benefits of EALC Membership

Excellent training and networking opportunities in person and online.

Short Courses delivered directly to your council at your request.

Legal guidance on Parish and Town council law, HR support through our partner WorkNest. Council representation at a cost to the council. Dates for introductory briefings with our new partners will follow.

Providing the very latest health and wellbeing support through Health Assured and the Employee Assistance Programme. Giving Clerks direct access, support and advice, 24/7.

AGM, Conferences events including health and wellbeing, climate action, youth engagement.

Grant availability and signposting.

NALC advice and best practice delivered to the Clerks mailbox weekly.

CIF and Micro-Grant administration and fund awarding.

Police, Fire and Crime newsletters by District and Borough.

Clerk and Councillor Conference Call availability.

Supporting national initiatives such as Lobby Day, the Levelling-Up agenda white paper and the NALC Civility & Respect project.



A small but dynamic team, the staff at the EALC bring a wealth of knowledge and experience from areas within and outside the sector to make sure our members get the best service possible.



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**Charlene Slade AATQB CiLCA**, Chief Executive Officer  
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**Pearl Willcox CiLCA**, Executive County Training Officer  
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**Stephanie Robinson ICAEW CiLCA**, Financial Controller  
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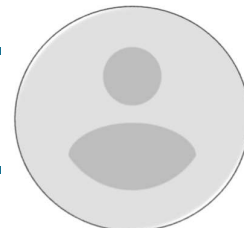
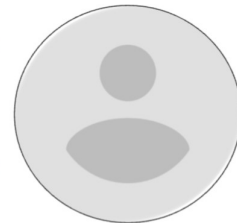
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**Michelle Storey**, Grant Funding Administrator  
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Please feel free to get in touch by email, or by phone on 01371 879722.  
Our opening hours are: Mon-Thur 09.00- 17.00, Fri 08.30-16.00

# EALC AGM 2023

We are delighted to announce that the 2023 AGM will be held in the Colchester District, in the Layer Suite at Colchester Stadium on Thursday 21st September 2023.

This all-day event will be free of charge to a considerable number of affiliated member councils due to attained sponsorship from our partner organisations. There will be complimentary tea and coffee throughout the day, with the chance for you to coordinate with stall holders and enjoy presentations from our keynote speakers and exhibitors.

A hot finger buffet lunch will also be provided for the opportunity to network.



Details on how to attend and the number that will be able to attend will be released in due course. As always, we ask that delegates confirm their attendance 30 working days in advance, and submit any AGM motions in compliance with our constitution 21 working days in advance.

We want to make this AGM the best yet, correlating with a wider variety of exhibitors and speakers enabling you to create new contacts, future allies and lots of new ideas to take away with you. We are here for you, our members, for you to get the most out of the day.



**We are very excited about our 79th AGM and sincerely hope that you can all attend. Further information including the agenda and order of the day will follow soon.**