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National Association of Local Councils**

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The Annual Report and Strategic Plan

– the story of the last year

- First year of new strategic plan, significant elements delivered
- Communications improved
- Confidence of Government secured – leading to tangible benefits
- Closer working with CALCs and SLCC
- More councillors engaged in task and finish groups, roundtables and as policy makers on AGM and National Council
- Today's event!
- Huge opportunity for sector
- New implementation programme sets out objectives for next year to capitalise on that

43 County Associations – key customers

3 CALC representatives

AGM

- Sets strategic work plan annually
- Sets affiliation fees
- Sets policy priorities

1 CALC representative

National Council elects:

- Officers
- Executive Committee
- Finance Committee
- Policy Committee
- Larger Councils' Committee
- Smaller Councils' Committee
- Scrutiny
- Improvement and Development Board reps
- (all meet 4 times a year)

NALC strategic Plan Priority 1 – improve services

- Better communications including New website – 325,000 web page views
- Dashboard of key PIs to track service standards
- Audit Practitioners Guide
- 100 New and revised legal topic notes and financial briefs, 625 queries dealt with
- New CiLCA
- Sector led body for Audit
- User groups
- Local Council Award scheme – 700 councils
- £4m transparency fund secured
- Procurement toolkit
- Elections hub
- Our place pilots secured
- Effective committee work programmes
- Super councils network and Associate membership of LGA
- Conferences and free workshops

Priority 2 New Councils and grow membership

- 150 campaign areas supported and funding for 2015 secured (though reduced) – support from Oliver Letwin
- Create a council champions events
- New councils set up or planned: Queen's Park; Badgers Mount; Chadwick End; Finham; Westgate; Macclesfield; Whitehaven; Penrith; Sutton Coldfield; Kidderminster; Ashford; Pannal; Bingley
- Membership pack, new returners include: Burgess Hill; Uckfield; Clevedon; Winkfield: Sandwich.

Priority 3 Promotion and lobbying

- Electronic agenda and payments success
- Grant funding secured : neighbourhood planning, community rights etc.
- Ministers continue to press principal councils to pass on council tax funding
- Fly the Flag day (Commonwealth and Queen's birthday)
- Oral evidence to select committee on Broadband and neighbourhood planning
- First neighbourhood planning national convention
- Electoral commission support stance on e-mailing nomination papers
- BBC Radio 4 – create a council and community energy
- Articles in national press, letters to Times etc. and trade journals
- Extensive coverage of campaigns
- underground drilling;
- business rates
- Courts closure
- parish role in devolution
- Spending review/budget
- Regular meetings with LGA Chairman and articles in house magazine

Lobbying!



NALC's Manifesto – shaped by National Council and agreed by Policy Committee



Stronger local democracy	Fairer funding	More powers
Make it easier to set up new parishes across England	Pass on Council tax support funding	Reform and simplify outdated laws
Create an improvement and development strategy	5% share of business rates	Right to be consulted and right to engage
Encourage more people to become Councillors	Share of community infrastructure levy, New Homes Bonus and underground exploration funding	Facilitate use of General Power of Competence – “right to innovate”
In return we will deliver local powerhouse – deliver neighbourhood plans, community rights, join-up local service provision, build strong communities		

David Cameron pledges to save Britain's public loos

The number of council-run public lavatories has fallen from 12,000 to 6,000 in a decade, in part because business rates makes them costly to run



944



136



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11



1K



Email



Male urinals in a public toilet Photo: Alamy

Source: The Telegraph

Fresh start, new Government

- Rt Hon Greg Clark MP, Secretary of State DCLG, Tunbridge Wells
- Brandon Lewis MP, Minister of State, Great Yarmouth.
- Marcus Jones MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Local Government) Nuneaton
- Rt Hon Mark Francois MP, Minister of State (Housing) Rayleigh and Wickford, Essex
- James Wharton MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Northern Powerhouse), Stockton
- Baroness Williams of Trafford (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State DCLG)
- Rory Stewart MP, (Parliamentary Under-Secretary (DEFRA). Penrith and the Borders
- Rt Hon Oliver Letwin MP, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (Cabinet Office) West Dorset
- New MPs too! And shadow teams

Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill

- This will significantly change how England is governed with devolution of national services and more strategic cross service working around economic development, transport health etc. Including directly elected Mayors.
- This needs to be supported by “local powerhouses” linking the strategic with communities and delivering neighbourhood plans, joining up local devolved service delivery and promoting local housing and economic development
- If not there is the danger of a local democratic deficit, community disengagement and too much of a top down approach.

**“Devolution is relevant to
all of us and is happening
now – Don’t miss the
chance to reshape public
services”**

How can we grab this opportunity?

- Deliver NALC's strategic plan – next year's programme
- More effective lobbying, nationally, regionally and locally
- Deliver!
- Build our capacity, at all levels
- Build strong partnerships
- Promote the sector, shout from the rafters!