

NALC Manifesto 2022/23

A manifesto for building stronger communities across
England.

NALC

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) is the only recognised national membership organisation for local (parish and town) councils. NALC works in partnership with county associations to support, promote and improve local councils.

There are **10,000 local councils** in England that represent **35 million people** with **16 million electors, raising £700 million** in precept and **investing over £2 billion** in communities. Some of the largest councils have a precept of over **£1 million** a year. **100,000 councillors** are spending over **14 million hours** a year serving those councils to help make a change in their community. Over **300** new local councils have been created in the last decade in rural and urban areas.

Our vision

- Local (parish and town) councils across the country will be the centre of community effort, the natural focus of public activity and service delivery.
- Local councils give a democratic voice to communities in the deliberations of other agencies and work in partnership with them.
- Vibrant, dynamic and effective local councils will help communities help themselves build strength and resilience and improve residents' quality of life.

Our offer

- Local (parish and town) councils give people a voice and structure for taking action as the first tier of local government.
- Local councils provide democratic leadership that is accountable, accessible and transparent.
- Local councils comply with the same practice and behaviour standards as other tiers of local government.
- Local councils plan for the future of neighbourhoods by championing what matters to local people, including the built and natural environment.
- Local councils are fiscally responsible by engaging with residents and businesses about investing in local priorities, services and projects.
- Local councils work with principal authorities, businesses, local groups and others.
- Local councils help build community cohesion and resilience.

Our asks

- Empower communities
- Diverse funding
- Strengthening local leadership
- Building capacity and capability

Empower communities

- Extend the General Power of Competence to all local (parish and town) councils.
- Reform outdated legislation, such as the flexibility to hold remote meetings.
- Strengthen community rights to protect neighbourhood plans, support community assets and take over services.
- More influence on local councils' decisions, such as highways, housing, licensing and planning (including a right of appeal).

Diverse funding

- Direct access to government funding and enabling powers for ministers to fund local (parish and town) councils.
- Freedom to set the precept (a small share of council tax) without a referendum.
- A share of business rates with the community and cultural assets are exempted.
- Increased developer levy contributions to local councils and flexibility in its use.

Strengthening local leadership

- Expand local (parish and town) councils across England and make them easier to create and make mandatory where local government reorganisation occurs.
- Promote civility and respect in public life, including strengthening the standards regime and introducing sanctions.
- Improve links with bodies such as principal authorities, directly elected mayors, police and crime commissioners, local enterprise partnerships and health bodies.
- Extend the remit of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman.

Building capacity and capability

- Encourage more people from all backgrounds and experiences to get involved with local (parish and town) councils as councillors or professional officers.
- Make it easier to stand and serve as councillors.
- Support and invest in the National Improvement Strategy for local councils, which encourages and provides training and development opportunities to local councils.

Contact

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