

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S FOREWORD

Jonathan Owen, chief executive of the National Association of Local Councils

I want to start my usual foreword to LCR magazine by saying a huge thank you to subscribers for your support over the years. Because this special digital edition of LCR will be the last, it follows a review of our paid-for publications, and we want to move to provide more content through the National Association of Local Councils' (NALC) website.

Just over a year ago, Cllr Keith Stevens was elected chair of NALC, joining at an exciting time for the sector and with a wealth of experience. Please read his second open letter, which includes his commitment to raising the profile of local (parish and town) councils as the first tier of local government and how you can help.

Cllr Stevens also rightly focuses on the issue of good governance in his letter and invites councils to demonstrate that to their residents by supporting our campaign on civility and respect and by participating in the Local Council Award Scheme. You can find out more about both on the NALC website.

But to inspire and help you on the road to achieving an award, Jennie Thomas from Stone Parish Council writes about their journey to Gold status.

England's 100,000 councillors provide the lifeblood of our national and county associations and, of course, our local councils. This edition of LCR highlights the importance of elections and encourages more people from all backgrounds and experiences to get involved and make a change.

NALC's Star Council Awards Council of the Year 2022, Farnham Town Council, opens the door to what they are doing to improve their area and how innovation, collaboration, partnerships, and volunteers are the keys to their success.

Other articles in this final edition cover climate change, cyber security, local audit and young people.

I hope you have had a great 2022 and are looking forward to 2023, which among many things, will see around 6,000 councils holding elections and the sector playing its part in celebrating the King's coronation.

Thank you once again for your support of LCR magazine. I hope you enjoy this final edition, and please make sure you are signed up to our mailing list

([www.nalc.gov.uk/newsletter](http://www.nalc.gov.uk/newsletter)) to keep informed on future articles, news, advice and guidance.

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