

Newsletter 2 – May 2023
Derbyshire Association of Local Councils



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1 - Welcome to Derbyshire's new councillors!

All of us at DALC would like to wish a warm welcome (and congratulations, of course!) to councillors who were successfully elected to Derbyshire's parish and town councils last week. We look forward to working with you all.

2 - DALC Day – June 27th

We're finalising our speaker and workshop line-up for DALC Day on June 27th. The day will feature sector-specific workshops in addition to expert speakers on a range of subjects – plus the presentation of the DALC Excellence Awards, and an excellent buffet lunch! The event will take place at the Technique Stadium, Chesterfield – please book your place via the DALC portal. A full agenda will be released next week.

3 - Everything you need to know about... us!

As new (and not so new) councillors take their seats on parish and town councils across Derbyshire, we've put together a new online leaflet to explain exactly what DALC does, and what we offer. A double-sided print version of the leaflet can be accessed [here](#), and an online version can be viewed [here](#).

4 - Updated councillor's guide to employment

Being a good employer is an essential part of a councillor's role, as it helps councils deliver better services for their communities. This updated DALC guide – [available FREE as an online download, details here](#) – follows the complete job cycle from recruitment onwards. It offers a straightforward approach to key employment areas, based on legislation and good practice, and is aimed at making employees feel more valued and effective.

5 - Last chance! Awards deadline nears

As the entry deadline (May 26th) approaches for our 6th annual Excellence Awards, there's still time to send in a nomination! Categories are: Council, Councillor and Clerk of the Year categories, and anyone can submit an entry – we just need to hear why your nominee deserves an award. You can [find an entry form here](#), or just write to us at awards@derbyshirealc.gov.uk. We'd really appreciate your support!

6 - .gov website lookalike – beware!

Several of you have been in touch regarding a website which copies the style and format of official government sites, and has offered subscriptions for council directory listings. Subject of an investigation by Radio 4's consumer programme You and Yours ([the clip can be heard here – report starts at 29:22](#)), Parish.uk has caused consternation throughout the sector, with a number of clerks reporting that emails have urged local businesses to pay for directory listings. We encourage caution when dealing with any approach from this website!

7 - Councillor 'sign-up' rules

As you know, part of the post-election process is that councillors need to sign their 'acceptance of office' declaration. Ideally, this should take place at or before the first meeting after the election. However, if councillors are unable to do this, [legislation](#) allows the signing to happen at a later meeting fixed (that is, agreed and minuted) by the council. Once signed in the presence of another councillor or the clerk, the declaration is valid for the four-year period. Members are reminded that councillors who are elected Chair must sign and deliver a separate acceptance of office, and that this is an annual declaration. Again, Council can permit the declaration to be signed at an agreed later date.

8 - Training update

Post-election, we've a wide range of training courses coming up, all available for booking via the DALC portal:

May

25th Employment essentials 10-12pm

June

7th Business Resilience 10-11am

13th Chair Skills 6-8.30pm

13th Basic Tree Survey and Inspection 8.45-4pm

14th HR Appraisals 10-12pm

15th Code of Conduct 6-7.30pm

22nd Councillor Essentials 10-12.30pm

27th DALC day – Seminar event, all day, Technique Stadium, Chesterfield

28th Conduct in meetings and employee relations 10-12pm

July

4th Cllr. Essentials 6-8.30pm

6th Playground training

6th Business Resilience 6-7pm

18th Understanding Planning 6-8pm

19th Law and Good Practice 10-1pm

20th/27th Clerk Essentials 6-8.30pm

24th Councillor Essentials 6-8.30pm

9 – Clerk Forum invite

Join us for an opportunity to have an election debrief and discuss co-option (as well as new elections for inquorate councils), plus audit matters and councillor induction.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4663925358?pwd=SUNVcFcyG5JalFsZVZGSkhXVGpyZz09>

Meeting ID: 466 392 5358

Passcode: DALC22

Best regards

Wendy