

Advice and good practice from the LGA Liberal Democrats

Tell people what you have been doing

We must emphasise for you to keep your members and supporters informed of what you have been doing. We have had some excellent examples from across the country of how our councillors are keeping local members and supporters up to date with what they are doing and what is going on in their area, whilst we have a moratorium on delivering leaflets and knocking on doors over the last few months. Here is a selection of what has been communicated:

'Schools, recycling centres and rethinking roads: news from your Lib Dem Councillors'
Bath & North East Somerset Liberal Democrats

'Lib Dem concerns about the arrangements being put in place for children to start school'
Teignbridge/Newton Abbot Liberal Democrats

'COVID-19 Update 22 May 2020, on bus charging and parking updates'
Haringey Liberal Democrats

'Bristol are top five ranking for COVID-19 community calling'
Bristol Liberal Democrats

Always look out for good practice examples from around the country in the LGA weekly email which usually hits your inbox on a Friday. We aim to showcase what our councillors are doing on the ground every week, but we can only do that if we know about it.

Please do share with the LGA Liberal Democrat office and rob.banks@local.gov.uk

LGA advice and guidance for councillors

The LGA has produced specific COVID-19 guidance for councillors (www.local.gov.uk/our-support/coronavirus-information-councils), to assist elected councillors as you grapple with the worst public health crisis we have experienced in a century. It is intended that this will be a living document and is updated, with new guidance and changes highlighted as the situation develops. LGA Liberal Democrat Group Leader Howard Sykes said,

"this is a must read for every Liberal Democrat councillor in the country and is one of the best things the LGA has produced in years."

NALC advice and guidance for Parish and town councils

In addition to the above LGA advice you can find advice to members of parish and town councils on National Association of Local Councils (NALC) www.nalc.gov.uk who also have a good Covid19 website which people can access on the above site.

NALC have also done a really helpful guide for parish and town councils about holding remote meeting and you can find that here: www.nalc.gov.uk/library/news-stories/3232-nalc-holding-remote-meetings/file

ALDC on approval and selection

You can't select your candidate too early – there's a lot of truth in that old adage.

Approval and selection is one job that a lot of local parties have been thinking about during the lockdown period. With the party helpfully confirming that selection can take place through online meetings, ALDC have updated their Approval and Selection Toolkit. Taking away some of the mystery and myth that can surround the process, the Toolkit is a comprehensive guide which includes all the necessary documents and will help you through the process in an ordered, compliant and efficient manner. The toolkit will help you to:

identify and contact potential candidates

agree approval and selection timetables

notify members of vacancies

undertake the approvals process using online conferencing tools

hold online hustings and have selection votes by mail/online.



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COUNCILLOR



Online platforms, such as Zoom, are suitable for both carrying out approval interviews and online hustings. However, a quick note of caution – you must use the security features to protect confidential meetings, such as approval interviews and the 'paperwork', such as application forms, must be stored and shared securely, for instance as password protected pdf files.

Candidates approved and selected for 2020 should be carried forward to 2021. However, if you need to replace candidates, the new applicant will need to go through the normal process.

You can access the full Toolkit at:

<https://www.aldc.org/2020/04/updated-advice-on-approval-and-selection-procedures/>